

**Around the Network – July 2015**  
**Linn Benton Food Share**

**Another shopping-style conversion.** Things are bustling at St Vincent de Paul Pantry in Corvallis! The intrepid Pantry Board really wanted to convert to a shopping-style pantry, so they undertook an entire remodel of their current pantry space in order to accommodate their dream! Their beautiful “new” pantry now boasts wide aisles with shopper-friendly, labeled shelving, spiffy easy-to-operate carts and an entire wall of commercial freezer and refrigerator units – obtained with help from a NSF Shopping Style Conversion grant! Pantry Manager Olive Davis reports very happy clients and volunteers. She urges her crew to “Err on the side of more food!” when assisting people as they shop.



St Vincent de Paul volunteers demonstrate shopping in the newly remodeled pantry (note the terrific new cart!).

Board Treasurer Harvey Thoennes, President Sharon Sever, and Pantry Manager Olive Davis are all smiles with their new freezers and refrigerators – obtained with help from OFB Network Support Funds!



**Patio Project in 3<sup>rd</sup> Year.** When Susan James, Food Share’s Gleaning Program Coordinator, first had the idea for a Patio Project – providing containers with a few donated plants to housebound elderly and disabled gleaning program members – she thought she would be lucky to get donations of a few hundred bedraggled end-of-season plants. Now in its 3<sup>rd</sup> year, program is a resounding hit with both nursery staff donors and recipients. By the end of June, Susan had scored 4,565 beautiful donated veggie plants from area nurseries, secured discounted potted soil, and – with the help of Deb from Food For Lane County – came up with the 5 gallon pots to plant the veggies. Food Share’s 14 non-profit gleaning groups went to work potting and distributing. Soon, fresh home-grown veggies will be just a step away for many delighted people.



Carl, a volunteer with Mary’s River Gleaners, gently helps unload veggie plants from the back of Susan’s pickup.



Bob, with Mid-Valley Gleaners, proudly displays his prolific tomato plant.

**Food demos hit the spot in Jefferson.** The community of Jefferson straddles Linn and Marion counties and boasts a relatively new but thriving food pantry at the local Methodist Church. The Jefferson Community Food Pantry has a Leadership Team that is always looking for better ways to assist the people they serve. A couple of months ago, they started hosting food demos – cooked up by a pantry supporter who loves to make healthy meals from scratch for her 3

teenagers. For each dinner demo, Stephanie uses ingredients available during that day's distribution and these products are cleverly indicated on the pantry shelves for shoppers to easily find.



OFB Muesli, a key ingredient in Stephanie's Pie Cherry Muesli dessert for June!