

Food Insecurity in Lamorinda and Contra Costa

Our January meeting, focusing on Food Insecurity in Lamorinda and Contra Costa County was well-attended and well-received. .

Based on the presentation, a few members have put forth the idea of creating an AAUW-OML group that would consistently volunteer together, perhaps once a month. There are also a few members who have expressed an interest in forming a group focused on advocacy—working at the County level to ensure that additional excess and unallocated Measure X funds are distributed, via EHSD (Employment & Human Services Department) to address food insecurity. Additionally, a few people have shared the desire to host a food drive or organize a monthly AAUW-OML food drop-off. If you have an interest in participating in any of these efforts/activities, please reach out to the co-chairs of DEI Group, Denise Burian and Shari Simon (deniseburian@gmail.com/sharisimon55@gmail.com).

Below we've included links to the websites of the four organizations, listed by category of key ways that we can support each one. Please feel free to share this information with your family and with friends. Based on the presentation, it was clear that the need is great—and that each organization would benefit greatly from additional community support.

1) Advocacy:

Food Bank of CC&S

- <https://www.foodbankccs.org/give-help/advocate/>

Loaves and Fishes

- Loaves and Fishes is just starting an Advocacy Program in collaboration with ECCCA's (East Contra Costa Community Alliance) new Policy Institute. They will be seeking 2-3 residents who are willing to participate; they will keep us informed.

2) Food Donations:

- The best day/time to deliver fresh produce:
 - Food Bank of CC&S: Monday - Saturday, 9:00 am to 4:00 pm
 - Loaves and Fishes: Monday-Thursday (need to call for drop-off times)
 - Monument Crisis Center—information is forthcoming
 - GaelPantry—information is forthcoming
- The best day/ time to deliver dry and canned goods:
 - Food Bank of Contra Costa: Monday - Saturday, 9:00 am to 4:00 pm
 - Loaves and Fishes: Monday-Friday (need to call for drop-off times)
 - Monument Crisis Center—information is forthcoming
 - GaelPantry—information is forthcoming
- The best time of year to hold a food drive:

- Food Bank of Contra Costa: Spring or Summer time. For us, it would be best to do a themed drive like a peanut butter and jelly drive or a pasta drive. This makes sorting food more efficient, and these are items on our most needed items list
- Loaves and Fishes: preferably January-September
- Monument Crisis Center—information is forthcoming
- GaelPantry—information is forthcoming

3) Monetary Donations:

- Loaves and Fishes of CC
 - <https://loavesfishescc.org/anniversary/>
 - <https://loavesfishescc.org/donate/donate-other-ways/>
- Monument Crisis Center
 - <https://monumentcrisiscenter.org/donate>
 - <https://monumentcrisiscenter.org/donate-now>
- Food Bank of CC&S
 - <https://www.foodbankccs.org/give-help/donate/>
 - <https://www.foodbankccs.org/give-help/donate/give-stock/>
 - <https://www.foodbankccs.org/give-help/donate/planned-giving/>
 - <https://www.foodbankccs.org/give-help/give-food/virtual-food-drive/>
- SMC of CA / Gael Food Pantry
 - https://gift.stmarys-ca.edu/a/gaelpantryfund?utm_medium=gaelpantryfund_url&utm_source=giving_vanity_urls&utm_campaign=general_giving
 - <https://www.stmarys-ca.edu/offices-services/mission-ministry-center/gaelpantry>

4) Volunteering:

- Loaves and Fishes of CC
 - <https://loavesfishescc.org/volunteer/>
- Monument Crisis Center
 - <https://monumentcrisiscenter.org/volunteer>
- Food Bank of CC&S
 - <https://volunteer.foodbankccs.org>

Last, thank you to all the attendees who donated food – it was divided up and delivered to the Gael Pantry, Burckhalter, Loaves and Fishes and the Monument Crisis Center.