

PACS' Role in Reducing Waste

We're excited to share our commitment to our donors, clients, neighbors, and the planet by reducing the amount of food, fashion, and household goods waste that ends up in landfills each year!

In the food industry, a staggering 35% to 40% of food gets thrown away annually in the United States. We find this wasteful, especially as grocery prices rise and families face challenges putting food on their tables. The good news is that in 2024, less than 2% of the food donated to PACS was discarded, which shows how much we can achieve together!

The fashion industry presents an even bigger challenge, but we're optimistic! Did you know it takes over 700 gallons of water to make just one T-shirt? That's enough for one person to drink for 900 days! Textile production contributes to about 20% of the earth's water pollution, making it essential for us to act. Sadly, only 12% of used clothing is recycled, while the rest ends up in landfills. The average American tosses out over 81 pounds of clothes each year, many of which are worn fewer than ten times.

But here's the bright side: in 2025, PACS sold an impressive 571,934 articles of donated clothing! These wonderful items found new homes, avoiding the fate of ending up in an ocean garbage patch. Plus, the proceeds from these sales help us continue providing food and dental care to those who need it most. Together, we're making a positive impact!



Winter 2025

Newsletter



2024 Stats

A Picture Paints a Thousand Words

Numbers can be hard to picture sometimes. Here are some comparisons to help visualize PACS' 2024!

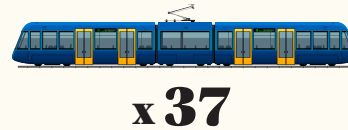
332,687 People Helped

Could fill Providence Park where the Timbers & Thorns play over 13 times!



2,458,375 lbs of Food Given

Weighs as much as 37 Portland Street Cars!



32,718 Hours Volunteered

If one person were to work full time, it would take them 16 years to work this many hours!



571,934 Pieces of Donated Clothing Sold

Estimating conservatively, enough thread was used in these items to circle the earth. Twice.



332,687 People Helped
The need is staggering. This is over 100,000 more people than in 2020 at the height of Covid.

\$3,687,361 Value of Food Distributed
Our community partners and volunteers truly move mountains.

2,458,375 Pounds of Food Distributed
Budgets are stretched tighter than ever and the need is great.

32,718 Hours Volunteered
This represents hundreds of people showing up week after week to help others.

Staff Stories

What do we do at PACS? Here are stories straight from our staff and volunteers.

Dental Clinic

“Our patient was missing 12 teeth and had significant decay in the teeth she had left. While sitting in the chair one day, she told me about how difficult it was to find a job with some of her front teeth missing. Once we got her remaining teeth healthy and free of decay, we set to work making her a partial to fill in the missing teeth. She called me last week to let me know she got a new part-time job!”

“We had a patient we saw a while back who really wanted to get his dental work done quickly. Since we’re limited here with only two dentists, he decided to go to another clinic. However, he ended up coming back because his experience there was terrible. He told us he’s now willing to wait because we treated him with kindness and respect. He said we went above and beyond to make sure he felt seen and heard in his dental concerns.”

“A patient with gum disease shared how grateful he is that we partner with the Mt. Hood Community College dental program. He knows he wouldn’t be able to afford these extra deep cleanings at a regular office without insurance and with a low income. He said that without this program, he would likely be losing teeth. He’s incredibly thankful to have access to care here.”

Mobile Food Pantry

The Mobile Food Pantry visits nine locations each month, providing food to those in need. At one apartment complex, an elderly woman approached and said, “Thank you for bringing the food to us. My income has decreased, and I had to move in with one of my neighbors. I had no food for two days, and you came to save my life today.”

The Mobile Food Pantry serves communities in Estacada, Gresham, East Portland, and Southwest Portland.



Food Pantry

“One morning, as I arrived at work and walked from my car to the office door, I noticed a man sitting outside. His hair and clothes were dirty, and his beard was unkempt. As I walked up, I smiled at him and said, “Good morning.” He asked when the food pantry would open, so I explained the process and told him what time we’d be able to bring him some food.

Then he said, “You are the first person who has smiled at me today.” I’ve often heard that just a simple smile can make a huge difference, but that day, I was confronted with the reality of it. For some people, especially those going through tough times, a smile can be rare—and it can completely change their day and even how they see themselves.”

“Recently, I was in the food pantry working alongside a volunteer who had just started. As we worked, I answered some of his questions about how the pantry operates and where the food comes from.

Then he said, “This is such a different place. I’ve never been anywhere with so much going on where everyone gets along and truly wants to be here. I’m amazed by this place and wish I could stay longer.”



Thrift Store

A young mother of 4-year-old triplet boys consistently shares how grateful she is for PACS. She’s told us many times that without PACS, she wouldn’t be able to provide her sons with nice toys and clothes on a regular basis. She’s especially excited about the holiday items that help her decorate her home and create a true holiday experience for her family.

And, of course, the joy she shows when she finds furniture for her home is unforgettable. She’s become not only a regular shopper but also a constant reminder of how important the mission at PACS truly is.

3rd and 4th Quarter Tribute Donations

These donations have been given in honor of others, and we couldn’t be more grateful. Thank you!

In Memory of Betty Janzen:
Gary and Carol Dodge
Bonnie Creitz

In Honor of Jesse Withers, Sheila O’Halloran, and Mary Flower:

Dwight Paine Jr. and Catharine A. Withers

Do you want to give a tribute gift to PACS in honor of someone special in your life? It’s easy! When you donate online just click “Dedicate this Gift.”

Visit:

www.PACSONline.org/donate

Or text: “PACS2025” to 44-321

**Scan the QR code to
sign-up for our new
PACS Email Newsletter
to keep up with all the
exciting stories, news,
and events!**



PACS volunteers are incredible.

Over the past year they have generously donated over 32,000 hours of their time to serve over 300,000 people in this community. But that's not the only thing that makes them incredible. One of my favorite things about our PACS Volunteers is the way they serve and care for each other like family.

For example:

- Grabbing dinner together after a shift
- Praying for each other
- Giving someone a ride home
- Visiting someone after surgery or illness
- Sending a note of encouragement
- Bringing someone a favorite snack
- Finding a meaningful treasure for someone in the thrift store
- Keeping an eye out for each other's safety
- Being there to listen and encourage
- Giving a hug on a hard day

It's volunteers who make PACS an incredible place!

