

Columbia Pacific Food Bank

Community Profile

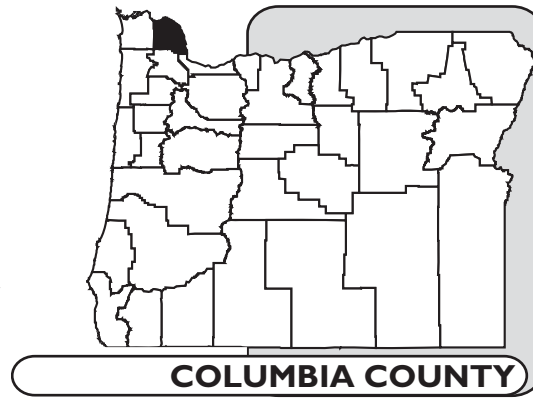
Population 49,351

Location St. Helens

Position Description

Sponsor Columbia Pacific Food Bank

Supervisor Tracie Smith
Executive Director



Assignment Columbia Pacific Food Bank is a community based non-profit organization dedication to fighting hunger and its underlying causes. Columbia Pacific Food Bank works to acquire and distribute thousands of pounds of food and household items each year through its 21 member agencies. The Food Bank receives, warehouses and distributes food daily to food programs throughout Columbia County.

The RARE participant placed with the Columbia Pacific Food Bank will conduct a comprehensive inventory of regional food systems and resources for Columbia County. The participant will examine local food self-sufficiency including local retail, livable wage farming, and local farmers markets. Additionally, the participant will work to strengthen community partnerships, develop resources that support low income and homeless population access to healthy food, create a printed and on line local food guide, and coordinate community garden partnerships across the Columbia County.

RARE Participant



Valerie Walker

Valerie Walker received her Bachelor of Arts in Print Journalism from Southern Adventist University in Tennessee. After attaining her Bachelors Degree, Valerie traveled the world, working two years as a teacher in South Korea and subsequently spending two more years as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Guatemala. As a Peace Corps Volunteer she worked as the Supervisor of a Healthy Schools Program that covered five rural communities in the Highlands of Guatemala. While in Peace Corps, Valerie also designed and introduced a viable supplement to firewood in the form of an ignitable brick made of shredded paper that is formed with a simple machine. Following her year with the RARE Program, Valerie has committed herself to further pursuing a career in the non-profit arena.