Community Profile

County  Wasco  
City  The Dalles  
Population  82,608

Assignment  
Organization  OSU Extension Service, Wasco County  
Supervisor  Lauren Kraemer  
RARE Member  Kiara Kashuba

About the Oregon State Extension Service  
Oregon State University Extension Service has served Oregon since 1911. We are part of the network of Land Grant Universities that serves every state in the US. OSU Extension Services has offices in almost every county and have faculty working in every part of the State. Their mission is to engage the people of Oregon with research-based knowledge and education that strengthen communities and economies, sustain natural resources, and promote healthy families and individuals.

As Food Systems Coordinator with the Oregon State University (OSU) Wasco County Extension Office’s Department of Family and Community Health, my focus of this service year is to improve Wasco County public health via avenues of food systems. My work plan is flexible and expected to change, but as of now I intend to divide my time evenly among five projects: serving as co-chair of the Blue Zones Project’s Food Policy Committee; conducting nutrition education and outreach at The Dalles Farmers’ Market and at food banks in underserved areas of Wasco County; writing a Food Hero curriculum to effectively train community members to perform nutrition education and outreach in their respective communities; create a food system infrastructure map to guide the efforts of the region’s Food Security Coalition; and create a toolkit for the Veggie Rx program in order to streamline program replication (see

Meet Kiara Kashuba  
• B.A. in Planning, Public Policy and Management– University of Oregon, Robert D. Clark Honors College  
• People may be surprised when they learn that I almost went to art school. I was accepted into the BFA photography program at the San Francisco Art Institute on their highest scholarship. I took photography classes for two years in high school, and became enamored with street photography. I would go to street fairs, protests, or just walk around town all day and ask random strangers if I could take their picture. I absolutely loved it. The goal of my photography was to capture and celebrate the human experience in its raw, candid form.  
• My most significant accomplishment thus far is my undergraduate honors thesis, which researches the prevalence, correlates, and effects of food insecurity among University of Oregon students. I regard this extensive research project as my greatest accomplishment because it not only demonstrates my academic, research, and project management capabilities, but my concern for my community, my value of advocating for vulnerable populations, and my ability to take direct action to better my community.