

MEET JULIE RICHARDSON

Sept. 2020



Julie is the dedicated Clark Neighbors Food Project volunteer who started our partnership with the East Vancouver Community Church Food Pantry in 2018. She first helped sort food for the Portland Food Project, asked whether there was a Food Project in the Vancouver area, and was quickly introduced to Debbie and Greg Nelson here in Clark County. She hit the ground running and hasn't stopped since!

"For the past two years, Julie and the CNFP have been cheerful and significant partners to the East Vancouver Community Church Food Pantry," shared its Executive Director David Lew. "Since 2018, Julie and her team have collected and donated more than 6,500 lbs. of food to our pantry! We look forward to continuing this highly valuable partnership."

Julie has expanded her Riveridge neighborhood to about 50 food donors, has several volunteer drivers who help collect her neighborhood's food, and supports three additional Neighborhood Coordinators who bring their collected food to EVCC Food Pantry. When she runs across a food donor who is excited, she asks whether they would like to be a Neighborhood Coordinator (and they typically say yes!) Julie has attended Cascade Park Neighborhood Meetings, struck up conversations with her neighbors, gone door-to-door (pre-COVID, of course), and simply looks for opportunities to share about this great program.

When asked what people might be surprised to learn about her, Julie shared she is a huge theater buff! At 13 years old, she saw a production of "To Kill a Mockingbird" and was so enamored with Scout that she's been involved with theater ever since, even moving to New York for a year hoping to "make it big!" Although she ultimately returned to the Pacific Northwest, she met her (now) husband Clayton at the University of Washington where she graduated with a major in Theater. She also acted in productions at the Taproot Theatre Company in Seattle before moving to the Vancouver area. Although Julie still has a love of theater, she spends a lot of her time and energy these days with her five grandkids. Granddaughter Roara has helped with the Green Bag project in the past and plans to continue. Clayton is her driver for collection Saturdays and helps her with the food donor database. What a great way to get the whole family involved in volunteering!

Julie's thoughts on what has surprised her most about working with the Food Project? "It's so easy! There's no pressure or stress. It doesn't take a lot of effort yet there is a huge payoff, both in terms of building community and providing food to hungry neighbors."