



Marion County VOLUNTEER

—2020 Annual Report—



Each year, Marion County receives invaluable support from volunteers who assist in a variety of programs.

The year 2020 was extraordinary and presented many challenges for employees and volunteers alike. Through the global pandemic, and despite the uncertainties that came with it, Marion County volunteers, interns, and advisory board members continued to support programs and services and donated over 45,000 hours of service. Volunteers donated time to the Dog Shelter, Fair, Extension & 4H activities, Victim Assistance, WIC & other early childhood supports, Law Library, environmental services and waste reduction, emergency services, faith-based and 12-step programs at the jail, search & rescue operations, and eighteen advisory boards.

In September, the Beachie Creek fire unexpectedly became one of the most destructive fires in Oregon’s history. With over 785 residential and commercial properties damaged or destroyed, mandatory evacuations transformed the Oregon State Fairgrounds to an emergency shelter.

In response, our community flooded the evacuation center with donations of time and resources. The fairgrounds quickly became a place of respite for people, pets and livestock. Hundreds of volunteers stepped up to provide emotional support, shelter, food, clothing, camping gear, pet supplies, and care & feeding of livestock. In all, evacuation center volunteers contributed over 10,000 hours of donated time to care for those impacted by the wildfires.

I am humbled by the strength and resiliency demonstrated by our volunteers, and proud to highlight the important role volunteers play in our community’s health and well-being.

Sincerely,

Sherry Lintner
Marion County Volunteer Services Coordinator

“Life doesn’t get easier or more forgiving, we get stronger and more resilient.”

-Steve Maraboli, Life the Truth and Being Free

By the Numbers

January 1-December 31, 2020



PROGRAM, ADVISORY BOARD AND INTERN VOLUNTEER HOURS:

46,252



WILDFIRE EVACUATION CENTER VOLUNTEER HOURS:

10,906



VALUE OF VOLUNTEER HOURS:*

\$1,554,697

*Value of volunteer hours is based on the Independent Sector’s 2020 published rate of \$27.20.



Board of Commissioners Business Services & Clerk's Office

Number of Volunteers: 42 ■ Number of Hours: 316
Value of Hours: \$8,595

Volunteer activities/roles: Budget Committee, Public Safety Coordinating Council, Compensation Board, Board of Property Tax Appeals.

Spotlight: The Marion County Public Safety Coordinating Council worked closely with partners to transform the local criminal justice system operations to ensure smooth, safe operations under the Covid safety measures in place. Working closely with the circuit courts, jail, prosecution, defense, victim services and the Juvenile Department priorities were identified and implemented to ensure justice could be served safely and without delay.



Community Services

Number of Volunteers: 302 ■ Number of Hours: 15,324
Value of Hours: \$416,812

Volunteer activities & roles: Children & Families Commission, Marion County Fair Board, Marion County Reentry Initiative mentor & educator, dog walker, adoption ambassador, canine foster care provider, canine artist & photographer, dog shelter clean-up, 4-H leader, Master Gardener, Master Food Preserver, food safety & nutrition educators, and more.

Spotlight: Dog Shelter

Despite the many challenges in 2020 shelter volunteers helped to find permanent, loving homes for 263 dogs; place 157 dogs with specialty rescue organizations, and re-unite 581 dogs with their owners. During the September wildfire evacuation shelter volunteers came forward to foster dogs that were in the shelter, making critical space so that the shelter could board evacuated dogs and cats. In total, 122 dogs were cared for in foster care while they awaited permanent placements. Shelter volunteers also participated in several virtual activities such as creating “pooch portraits.”

Spotlight: Marion County Fair

7 Fair Board members and a handful of key volunteers worked tirelessly to organize a virtual fair providing opportunities for public competitions, 4-H & FFA animal exhibits, and livestock auctions.

Spotlight: Children & Families Commission

Commission members continued to meet virtually throughout the year, working with school principals and community leaders on the Hope Alive project in East Salem. The project connects families so they can sustain their mental and physical well-being, and encourages residents to organize/create self-reliant and resilient neighborhoods.

Spotlight: AmeriCorps Rural Assistance in Rural Environments (RARE)

Access to broadband in rural communities has been of heightened concern as students and remote workers rely on internet access to work and study. In addition to working with Silverton and Jefferson to develop broadband policies, RARE member Peter C. also worked closely with St. Paul and Scotts Mills to address broadband questions and concerns. Peter's work will lay the foundation as Marion County continues to address the broadband needs of our cherished family farms.





District Attorney's Office

Number of Volunteers: 40 ■ Number of Hours: 12,170

Value of Hours: \$331,024

Volunteer activities & roles: Victim Advocate, Sexual Assault Response volunteer.

Spotlight: Victims Assistance

With physical distancing measures in place for most of the year, new volunteers and interns completed their extensive training virtually. Their dedication to complete training and support victims was inspiring to staff. Advocates worked with victims by providing updated case information, referrals to community resources, crisis intervention, attend hearings and trials, and act as liaison between prosecutors and victims. Sexual Response Advocates responded to 70 sexual assault calls, and although they were not able to be at the hospital they provided support over the phone during physical exams.



Health & Human Services

Number of Volunteers: 49 ■ Number of Hours: 1,886 ■ Value of Hours: \$51,299

Volunteer activities & roles: Ambulance Service Area Advisory Committee, Health Advisory Board, Intellectual and Developmental Disability Advisory Committee, Local Alcohol & Drug Planning Committee, interns, WIC and Early Childhood Nursing program support, Covid-19 testing & vaccination support.

Spotlight: Volunteers helped with a variety of projects related to the County's COVID response, testing and vaccination administration. Specific tasks such as answering phones, collecting data from our long term care partners, and helping local pharmacies enroll in the Federal Pharmacy Program helped to ensure our efficient response to the quickly evolving situation.



Legal Counsel

Number of Volunteers: 1 ■ Number of Hours: 50 ■ Value of Hours: \$1,360

Volunteer activities & roles: Organize and update legal forms and CLE resources, scan & copy duties, rebinding titles requiring repair, and tasks preparing for the Legal Library's move to a new location in the basement of Marion County Courthouse.



Public Works

Number of Volunteers: 258 ■ Number of Hours: 9,171 ■ Value of Hours: \$249,451

Volunteer activities & roles: Auxiliary Communications, ADA Transition Focus Group, Community Emergency Response Teams, Medial Response Corp, Parks Commission, Planning Commission, recycling & waste reduction outreach & education, Solid Waste Management Advisory Committee, Water Quality Advisory Board.

Spotlight: ADA Transition Focus Group

The ADA Transition Focus Group worked with the Engineering Division to develop our ADA self-evaluation and transition plan for Public Rights-Of-Way. Members analyzed information gathered through surveying and policy review to identify barriers people with disabilities may face when accessing county Right of Way (ROW) roadside facilities such as sidewalks, curb ramps and signalized intersections. The transition plan includes steps for removing barriers based on a priority ranking system developed with assistance from the focus group.

Spotlight: Emergency Management Citizens Corp

Citizens specially trained in preparedness & response dedicated over 6,700 hours assisting Marion County in 2020. In addition to helping with the wildfire response and recovery, Citizens Corp volunteers helped to store and distribute PPE to agencies, healthcare partners and residential care facilities.





Sheriff's Office

Number of Volunteers: 185 ■ Number of Hours: 7,335
Value of Hours: \$199,512

Volunteer activities & roles: Cadets, graffiti abatement, intern & practicum students, Search & Rescue, faith based & 12-step program volunteers, and Marine Patrol.

Spotlight: Search and Rescue

With six specialized units, Marion County's Search and Rescue volunteers contributed 5,209 hours of volunteer service in 2020. These specialized volunteers were instrumental in the evacuations of US Forrest Service lands, Pacific Crest Trail, and North Fork Road during the initial wildfire response. They continued to serve conducting fire watches, working at the donation center and assisting at post-fire information centers. They also assisted with several searches including a successful recovery of a missing dementia patient. Recovered in an area with heavy brush and undergrowth, the patient likely would not have survived overnight.



Wildfire Evacuation Center at the Oregon State Fairgrounds

Number of Hours: 10,906 ■ Value of Hours: \$296,643

Volunteer activities & roles: Local residents, businesses and organizations jumped into action to help wildfire evacuees find shelter, food and other necessities as they took refuge at the Oregon State Fairgrounds. Volunteers spent many hours in the heavy smoke and falling ash to provide comfort, basic needs, transportation, shelter, spiritual support, livestock transportation and care, and veterinarian services - all while following strict Covid measures.

Spotlight: OSU Extension

OSU Extension deployed over 300 volunteers to the fairgrounds to help manage the care and feeding of over 1,400 animals. Livestock volunteers worked closely with owners, animal rescue organizations, feed stores, and others to meet the needs of the animals in their care. In addition to local goats, rabbits, fowl, alpacas, and horses, these dedicated volunteers provided care to 27 huskies that Clackamas County was unable to accommodate.

Spotlight: Citizens Corp

In addition to staffing the County's Emergency Operations Center and phone bank, Citizens Corp volunteers played an extensive role in the County's response and recovery efforts. Volunteers conducted daily COVID screenings, provided traffic control and helped with security at the fairgrounds thus further ensuring the health and safety of those already impacted by the devastating wildfires. They also helped with water distribution in Detroit. Auxiliary Communications (AuxCom) team members deployed when the county's communications infrastructure was damaged during the wildfire.



Dirk VanderHart/OPB



Amanda Loman/Salem Reporter



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2020 Annual Report (January 1 - December 31, 2020)

Visit www.co.marion.or.us/HR/VOL/ for more information, or to download a copy of the 2020 Volunteer Annual Report.