

# A Brief History



The ROC food pantry had a humble birth. In 2004 an unnamed food bank was launched in an alley garage of First Christian Church near historic downtown Grants Pass, Oregon. In the first week food was served to two people.

When six volunteers had signed up, work began converting that garage into a food pantry. By August 2004 we had over 10 volunteers to serve clients each week.

In November 2006, Mrs. Lillian Hoover, a member of First Christian Church, bequeathed a large contribution to the Church for food pantry purposes. That gift became the Hoover Fund with ROC still receiving benefits to the present time. As ROC grew it also received donations from individuals, more local churches and organizations, and foundation grants as the important work being performed became recognized by the community.

Our mission statement is simple: ***Our calling is to serve those in need with respect for their human dignity and with love as Jesus asks of us. While we feed their body, we will also provide resources to improve their overall condition – body, soul, and spirit.***

Our goal evolved into becoming a community resource center that helped with more than food. We decided to provide clothing, bedding, household needs, and camping equipment for the homeless. And to offer referrals to other services within the community including education and training to improve their present conditions and offer spiritual encouragement.

As the food pantry grew more space was desperately needed and we developed our long term vision: ***To purchase a building and provide funding to administer future ministry and programs, and partner with other churches for donations of time, energy, supplies, and money to expand services and outreach.***

In April 2007, a major step regarding that vision was achieved. First Christian Church utilized a portion of the Hoover Fund to purchase the building we currently occupy. We named our food pantry **ROC – Reaching Our Community.**

**And now in 2021 ROC may be able to fulfill its vision of purchasing a building. ROC is in discussions to purchase the building it has occupied for the past 14 years. Achieving that vision is dependent on the generous assistance from both new and long-term benefactors and possibly institutional support.**

More ROC history follows below -

Opening Ceremony 2007



Present Day



In 2008, we began to offer free food delivery for home-bound people. We also distributed more than 15,500 pounds of free clothing that year. In 2009, we completed our kitchen and added a Warehouse Coordinator position, a new ROC director, and a second distribution day on Saturdays that doubled the number of people we serve. We also made over 1,000 home deliveries with the help of many volunteered hours. And we have been even busier since then.

**In 2021 ROC consistently serves over 5,200 people a month** and makes an additional 200 monthly home deliveries. ROC currently has several employees and approximately 38 volunteers who work about 700 volunteered hours each month. We also benefit from [Easterseals Senior Community Service Employment Program](#) participants who contribute approximately 380 volunteered hours per month. We receive donated food, clothing, and financial contributions. And we now hold monthly yard sales which is a friendly way to generate additional funding when every dollar counts.

Many people in the community know of the services provided by ROC. And many who are able help. Can you help?

If you have any additional stories or pictures of ROC to add to our history, please send them to [roc4people@rochome.org](mailto:roc4people@rochome.org).