

# LO Interact and the Oregon Food Bank Garden

Report of 9/17/2016 Service Project by Ted Ricks



What does the LO Interact Club do on a rainy, September Saturday?

Go to the Oregon Food Bank (OFB) garden and harvest vegetables for Oregon families.

On September 17, six members of the LO Interact club along with parents and sister, Pat and Molly Mullen, Reilly Mullen, and Angie Sandblast, spent 3 hours volunteering in the OFB harvesting corn, tomatoes, cucumbers, basil, and zucchini for families who don't know where their next meal is coming from or "food insecure". We picked and packed 476 lbs of vegetables that translates into 396 meals.

270,000 Oregon families throughout the State depend on emergency food supplies from the OFB; 92,000 or 34% are children. Fresh vegetables are an important part of this food supply.

The team began in the corn field, snapping off ears of corn and filling their buckets; then moved onto the tomatoes where they picked what was left of the summer crop and began the recycling of vines for compost. Into the day they picked a small field of cucumbers, basil, and zucchini.



Finally, pulling up and composting of a corn field and tomato plants followed by cleanup, and a final group photo of all...rain soaked, but happy for the service experience and as a bonus...some of their pickings to take home.

