The Pioneer Pantry has provided so much food for me. I know that I'll always have something to eat, and I don't have to worry about missing a meal. It is amazing to see how many kids the pantry helps out. I am grateful to the people who are involved. It really makes a difference for every student. So thank you very much, it's greatly appreciated!

–OCHS Senior, Unaccompanied Youth
The Problem
Each school year there are more than one hundred homeless students attending Oregon City’s high schools. These teens, and the many hundreds more who qualify as food-insecure, don’t always know where their next meal is coming from and often come to school hungry. While the National School Lunch Program helps fill that need during the school week, what happens to these students over weekends and school breaks?

The Solution
The Pioneer Pantry
A ‘backpack’ program designed by a small team of staff and volunteers led by then-principal Tom Lovell. The Pioneer Pantry began providing weekend food bags to homeless and food-insecure students at OCHS in September of 2014. Within one year, we expanded our mission of “Feeding Bodies and Minds” to include OCSLA, CAIS and Jackson Prep. In addition to the food that goes home on weekends and school breaks, we now also offer water bottles and healthy snacks to our students who come to school hungry during the week.

Successes
Over 4,000 backpacks of food were provided to students during the 2018-19 school year. The Pioneer Pantry is credited for contributing to the graduation of dozens of homeless students since its inception. Service clubs, businesses, individuals, and churches support the mission of The Pioneer Pantry with financial contributions and food drives to meet the needs of our students. The Pioneer Pantry partners with the Oregon Food Bank to increase the impact of each dollar donated.

Making a Difference
The estimated cost of the 4,000 backpacks – or 8,000 meals – to be provided by The Pioneer Pantry each school year is over $30,000. We rely on your generosity to provide the funding needed to help make a difference in the lives of these students.

Thanks to Our Partners Including:
Beavercreek Lions Club
OC Grocery Outlet Store & Customers
Lewis & Clark Bank & Employees
Living Hope Church
Menchies of Oregon City
OCHS Students “Bear Necessities” Program
Oregon City Optimist Club
Pacific Seafood
Providence Health & Service
Shari Anderson, CPA
The Rotary Club of Oregon City
Willamette Masonic Lodge #2 AF&AM Milwaukie
Individuals and Families of Oregon City
OC Woman’s Club
OC Municipal Courts
OC Elk’s Lodge
Zion Lutheran
Meineke of OC

For More Information
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Operations Coordinator can be reached at thepioneerpantry@orecity.k12.or.us

*Oregon City High School (OCHS); Oregon City Service Learning Academy (OCSLA); Clackamas Academy of Industrial Science (CAIS); and Jackson Prep.