



the monthly scoop

a publication of Lake Oswego-Dunthorpe Alumnae Club

November 2023



Dear Pi Phis,

We hope you've all had a great fall. We sure did!

It's hard to believe that our **Holiday Luncheon** is just three weeks away. **Please buy your tickets for the luncheon by November 20 by [CLICKING HERE](#).** Friends and family are invited to join you. We were able to keep the ticket price the same as last year even though the price of everything is going up as you know. 😊

This year we are having an ongoing **Book Drive**. We will be delivering the collected books in the spring to The Children's Book Bank/SMART Reading. **Please bring new or gently used children's book to the luncheon** and other events such as Happy Hour. We collected 20 books at our Happy Hour in September. **Julia Tucker** (julia.pdx@gmail.com) **has offered to collect books from those who can't attend events.** [See Page 2 for a link about donating books.]

For Read > Lead > Achieve® month in September, we donated to **Schoolhouse Supplies**.

The club also supported **SMART Reading (Start Making a Reader Today)** by making a donation in September to their SIP event, and we were recognized in their promotional materials. Thank you to the members who paid Angel Dues this year, which help support our philanthropies.

For the holidays, we will be **collecting canned food and other non-perishable food for Hunger Fighters in Lake Oswego**. Please bring items to the luncheon or contact Julia if you would like to drop off anything at her home in Lake Grove. [See Page 3 for a link to make a \$ donation.]

As we did last year at the Holiday Luncheon, our club and the Portland Alumnae Club will have five baskets each for a raffle. Portland is using their funds for buying items for their Holiday Adopted Family. **Our club will use funds raised to donate to Hunger Fighters.**

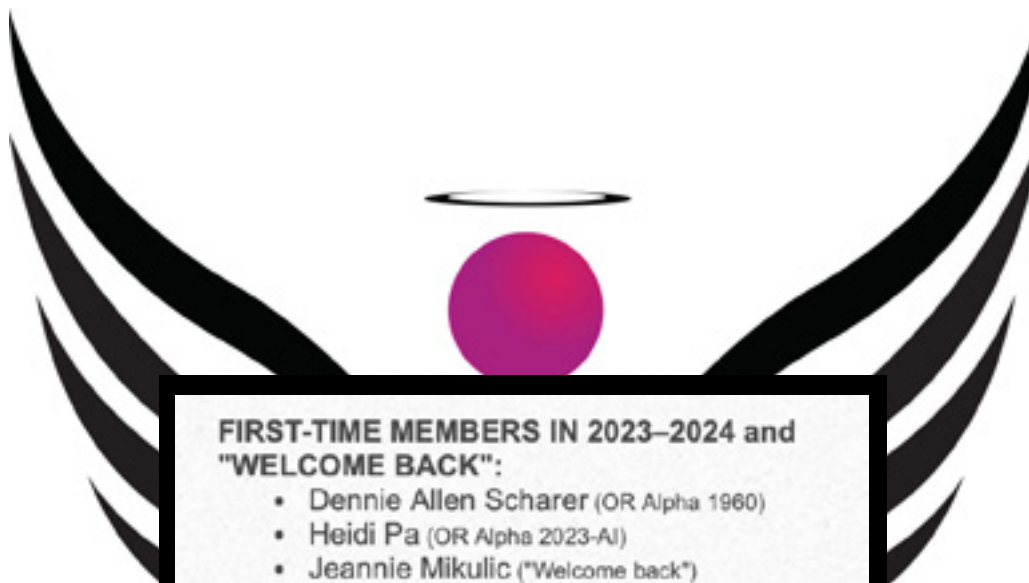
We need one member more to put together a basket or have any items you'd like to donate. Please contact Susan (sbmaxwell@mac.com) if you would like to contribute. 🙏 Four members have already offered to put together and donate baskets.

Good news! Susan submitted an application for an FDS500 grant to Pi Beta Phi Foundation and our proposed recipient won. The Children's Book Bank will receive \$2,000 worth of greatly needed books from First Book.

**** PLEASE SEE THE FOLLOWING PAGES FOR MORE INFO AND PHOTOS ****

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/LakeODunPiPhis/>
<https://www.lakeoswegopiphis.org>

Questions? Comments? Write to sbmaxwell@mac.com.



**FIRST-TIME MEMBERS IN 2023–2024 and
"WELCOME BACK":**

- Dennie Allen Scharer (OR Alpha 1960)
- Heidi Pa (OR Alpha 2023-AI)
- Jeannie Mikulic ("Welcome back")
- Jill Pearce Fouts (OR Beta 1978)
- Julie Branford (OR Gamma 1964)
- Lauren Carrier Esmay ("Welcome back")
- Maddie Burke Russo ("Welcome back")
- Maren Jones McCabe ("Welcome back")
- Pamela Lindstedt Cook ("Welcome back")
- Pat Getto Plumlee (KS Alpha 1959)



**REGISTER HERE FOR THE DECEMBER 2 HOLIDAY
LUNCHEON. RSVPs ARE NEEDED BY NOVEMBER 20.**

**Would you like to donate an item for a raffle basket
or put together a whole "themed" basket?**

Email sbmaxwell@mac.com

Picture Book Donations Needed

SMART Reading needs donations of new or gently-used picture books and board books (especially books geared toward Pre-K students) for The Children's Book Bank at SMART Reading. **Please bring books to any of our LO-DUN events or email julia.pdx@gmail.com.**

[Click here for information about donating books](#)





Dear friends & supporters of Hunger Fighters,

[Willamette Week's Give!Guide](#) is now underway! Keep reading for more insight on why your contributions to Hunger Fighters are so important and appreciated this year.

These days, I talk a lot about what a difficult year it has been for our pantry community and for all food charities.

There are multiple reasons for this and there's no indication that things will ease up anytime soon. The below charts - with data from June 2022 until now - show the significant increase in the total number of households coming to Hunger Fighters each month as well as the total number of individuals in those households.



Some of the increase occurred after we moved to a more visible and easily accessed location in June of 2022.

But you can see in these charts a marked increase in March of 2023 that has not let up ever since. What happened in March of this year?

In March, emergency allotments to SNAP benefits, implemented in 2020 in response to the pandemic, were rescinded. SNAP benefits returned to pre-pandemic levels.

This meant that households saw a reduction of \$95-250 a month in benefits, with no economic benefits to offset this drastic change. Food and gas prices continue to be inflated, affordable housing is scarce, and low-wage workers are treading water at best.

Oregon was able to distribute a one-time additional benefit last spring for households with children. Besides that, it's been one long setback for Oregon families that rely on SNAP benefits to feed their families. The SNAP changes this year spawned a grim new phrase: the hunger cliff.

At Hunger Fighters, we strive every day, all year long, to be a reliable source of nutritious food and hygiene/cleaning supplies for families affected by these SNAP changes and other economic conditions and policies that make it difficult or even impossible for many families to cover basic household expenses.

Our dedicated community has supported Hunger Fighters for nearly 10 years, and we are so grateful for the ongoing commitment to our mission. We've had multiple challenging growth periods over that decade, and this one is putting us to the test.

Please consider donating today to [Hunger Fighters through the Give!Guide](#). If you have questions or feedback, please feel free to reply - I'd love to hear from you.

With gratitude,
Molly Rodrigano
Executive Director, Hunger Fighters Oregon
503-683-3401
mrodrigano@hungerfightersoregon.org

PI PHIS: THIS HOLIDAY SEASON, PLEASE CONSIDER MAKING A TAX-DEDUCTIBLE GIFT TO HUNGER FIGHTERS USING THE LINKS IN THIS NOTE AND/OR DONATING NON-PERISHABLE FOOD. SEE PAGE 1 OF THIS NEWSLETTER FOR FOOD OPTIONS. IF YOU DONATE \$, PLEASE EMAIL dmonahan97@gmail.com SO WE CAN TRACK LO-DUN GIVING.

PHOTOS AND FACEBOOK POSTS

This Pi Beta Phi International Award was announced on Facebook in early June 2023. HQ used the photo of us taken at Heidi Pa's pledging ceremony in April 2022.

Excellence in Community Service (Non-Literacy)



Small: Lake Oswego-Dunthorpe, Oregon, Alumnae Club

In Summer 2022, the Lake Oswego-Dunthorpe Alumnae Club donated school supplies to the Community Transitional School, a school aimed at supporting youth experiencing homelessness in the local area. Beyond their involvement with the school, several gift baskets were raffled off at a holiday luncheon with proceeds supporting Hunger Fighters Oregon, a local food pantry that saw a 184% increase in demand.





On September 13, 2023, we gathered at Baird's on B for Happy Hour. Julia collected children's books which we will donate to The Children's Book Bank at SMART Reading. Sadly, the husband of Andi Anderson Mariani (lower right) suffered a traumatic brain injury the next day. After a courageous fight and Andi's loving attention, Gary passed away on October 30. Please send your prayers to Andi at this difficult time in her life. ❤️



In 2022, we nominated Community Transitional School for an FDS500 grant from Pi Beta Phi Foundation. \$2,000 worth of books from First Book were sent to the very appreciative organization which emailed this photo to us along with a thank you note.

In September, Susan nominated The Children's Book Bank/SMART Reading, and they were selected to receive one of the 50 grants given this year.

On September 27, 2023, Maja Tanaka Berge (left), Patricia Bukowski May (in gray) and Julia Tucker (right) attended SMART Reading's SIP fundraiser. The organization raised \$80,000 for their programs in the Portland Metro area.

Our club made a very nice donation to SMART. Thank you to our members and Angel Donors!

