

Spotlight: Community Loaves

Community Loaves is a nonprofit grassroots bread and cookie home-based volunteer brigade, baking and delivering Honey Oat Sandwich Loaves and Energy Cookies in support of our overstretched food pantries. Founder, Katherine Kehrl started this project in April 2020 with an aspirational and understated donation of 19 loaves created by a handful of pioneer bakers. Flash forward three years, with their anniversary just around the corner, Community Loaves has donated over 114,826 loaves and 38,644 energy cookies to 61 neighborhood hubs that support 43 food banks between California, Idaho, Oregon, and Washington. It's absolutely remarkable.



Pictured above is Bread Baker and Community Loaves Founder, Katherine Kehrl

"The first thing I would want people to understand is how powerful a difference we can make baking from our home kitchens in terms of being a source of nutritious calories for our local food banks. That has never really been tapped into," said Kathrine. "We have this terrific opportunity to do that, at the same time while supporting local, regional grain economies is an incredible win. Bakers already love to bake, and they love to nourish. And Community Loaves is a matchmaker of that heart and passion directly into the emergency food system."

Community Loaves conducts a flour fundraiser once a month to allow them the funds to grow the organization and support more food banks. This is how they have built a structure to support this effort into the future. Bakers donate their time and talent, as this is primarily a volunteer organization.

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Katherine's personal passion for baking with freshly milled flour helped spark the idea for Community Loaves. This project continues to address the growing number of people in our communities experiencing food insecurity, and to provide them with wholesome, nutritious bread and snacks. Community Loaves provides purpose and fosters a heart-warming connection to local community, and the impact is limited only by the size of the baking brigade; more bakers mean more donations.

"We want bakers," said Kathrine. "Here's the thing about food insecurity: anytime we donate, the demand exceeds the foodbank clients." Here in Washington, the primary beneficiary of Community Loaves' baked goods, the demand exceeds 10,000 foodbank clients every month. "We donate between 4,000 to 5,000 items – 1,500 loaves and around 2,500 energy cookies. If our goal was that everyone got something freshly baked, lovingly baked, we'd need to double our bakes. More bakers is the way to do that."

Please join us in celebrating the amazing efforts and impact of Community Loaves. Their website is a wealth of information and we encourage you to check it out. Further, you can attend an information session, fund their growth, or sign up to bake.