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## Employee Food Pantry Serves Those in Need at Asante

The ground rules are pretty straightforward at Asante Rogue Regional's Employee Food Pantry. If you're hungry, you're welcome to some food. If you want to help others, you're welcome to donate some food.



"If an employee needs food, they qualify to receive food from the pantry," organizer Laura Nicholson wrote in a recent memo asking leaders to spread the word. "There are no other qualifications."

The Employee Food Pantry – which has replaced the Employee Angel Team – is intended to provide temporary assistance to Asante employees and their families who are going through periods of need. It serves employees of the organization throughout Jackson County.

Those who need food can request a trip to the pantry by email at [employeefoodpantry@asante.org](mailto:employeefoodpantry@asante.org), or by phone at (541) 789-5875. A pick-up time is then coordinated, and a

volunteer will meet the employee at the tray-return area of the Asante Rogue Regional cafeteria. The employee is taken to the food pantry to fill a cart with needed items, which are loaded into the employee's vehicle at a discreet entrance to the building.

For those who want to help with donations, watchfulness is the key. Collection barrels are placed at the west entrance of the hospital whenever supplies in the pantry run low.

"This keeps us from being wasteful by collecting food that isn't used timely," said Laura Nicholson, who is Asante Rogue Regional's coordinator of patient experience and volunteers. "If there is an influx of requests that results in a low overall supply, we notify the leadership team and ask each leader to collect certain pantry items from their teams."

For example, Laura said, the surgery team recently donated a large amount of toilet paper.

Staples and miscellaneous items that are frequently needed include applesauce, canned or dried beans, peanut butter, pasta and rice, canned fruits and vegetables, juice, vegetable oil, flour and corn meal, canned or dried soups and stews, jams and jellies, cereal and nuts – either canned or in jars. Hand soap, paper products, toothpaste, shampoo and deodorant are among the other products needed on a regular basis.

Homemade, unlabeled or expired items cannot be accepted.