



The CedarWood Report



Winter 2017

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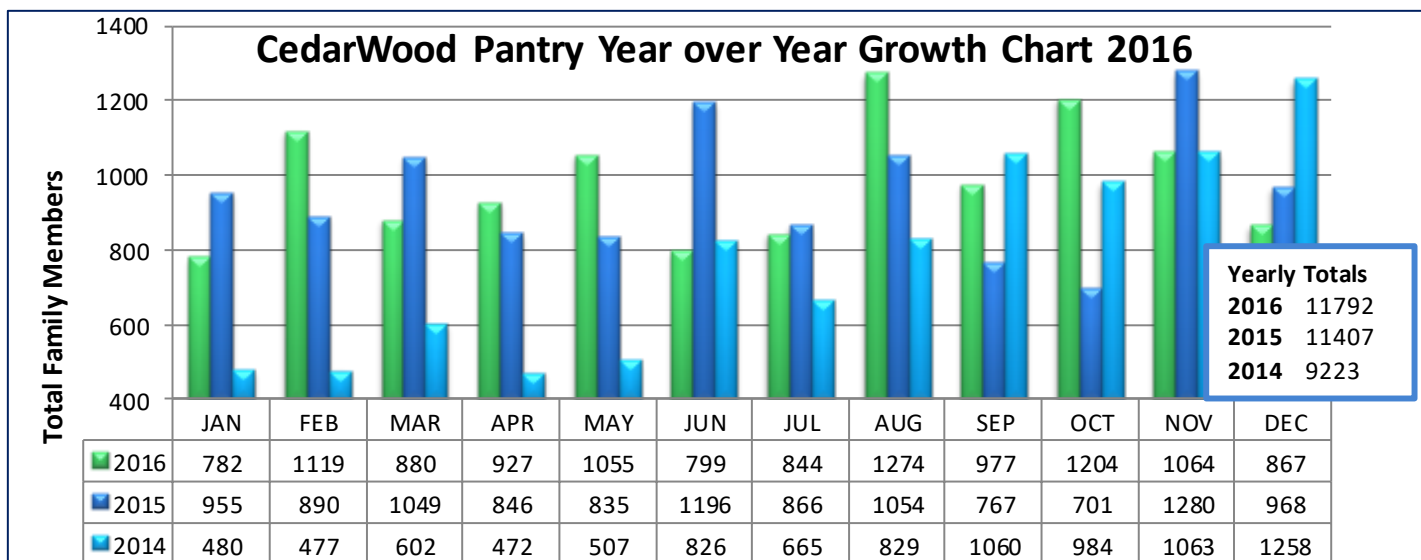
Remembering 2016—Looking Ahead To 2017

CedarWood International is dedicated to serving the community and building stronger families. We do this by providing food, clothing, and household items which assist families in financial need. We also build stronger families through relational influence—loving people in their current situation and throughout their growth process. As a division of The World For Jesus Ministries, we believe in ministering to the spirit as well as the body. The power of God's love transforms individual lives and entire families.

2016 was an amazing year of growth and maturity for CedarWood. We did grow numerically, although not at the same pace as previous years. However, we did significantly expand our community impact and "footprint." We formed key business relationships with new suppliers and partnered with several new community organizations. We share the perishable food left after our Pantry days with 7-10 other organizations on a regular basis. These organizations share that bounty with people we could not reach on our own. As we look back, we attribute that solely to God's amazing grace and providence. During our Pantry days last year, we not only increased the volume of food clients take home, but we also saw significant improvements in the quality and variety of the food we distribute! We have been blessed to be able to provide our customers with the best nutrition on a regular basis.

This past year, some of the most memorable times for our customers have been at our special events. At this year's "Back to School Bash", every child who registered was provided with a backpack full of school supplies corresponding to their grade level. They also received coupons for free haircuts donated by local stylists, allowing them to look and feel their best as they returned to their studies. Other milestones of 2016 include: our first clothing drive fundraiser, a local Boy Scout troop food drive for CedarWood, partnering with others to provide holiday meals with all the trimmings for both Thanksgiving and Christmas, and also families who came to the Pantry before Christmas received brand-new toys for their children. We wish all of you could have seen the hope, joy, and grateful tears resulting from each of these events—all made possible by generous donors and volunteers.

CedarWood's desire in 2017 is to continue growing as an organization—both in scope and depth. We need more volunteers as we experience increasing levels of resources which need to be processed and in our weekly customer volume. This year we will focus on recruiting and training a team of volunteers with specific responsibilities, freeing the staff to pursue our next-level goals. For more information about our 2017 vision and goals, check out the next page. Thank you for your continued support!



CedarWood International is a division of *The World For Jesus Ministries*

Our mailing address is:

11700 Mukilteo Speedway

Suite #201-1177

Mukilteo, WA 98275

Nat'l office #: (559) 435-2423

Questions? Contact CedarWood's

Director, Vivian Du Porter, at

VivianD@worldforjesus.org

<http://www.worldforjesus.org>

Vivian's work #: (206) 883-5132





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Page 2

4 Years of Faithful Service!

Anytime you are at the CedarWood Pantry, whether on Pantry day or other work days, there's a good chance you will see Diann, cheerfully assisting with whatever task is needed at the moment. Whether it's working in the kitchen, dividing up individual portions of dry goods, assisting pantry clients with their shopping, sorting donated clothing or preparing double-layer plastic bags for our Backpack Kids assembly days, you can be assured that Diann is there, ready and willing to help.

Diann first got involved with CedarWood as a result of seeing the opportunity in her church bulletin. With the encouragement of her pastor, she came to help with our very first Pantry day. She had been working at a daycare when the Lord led her to retire. Around that same time, several people approached her to say they felt she was ready and available for "such a time as this". In hindsight, she now understands that the Lord was preparing her to be able to serve at the CedarWood food pantry.

Diann often expresses how much she loves the work she does at CedarWood and how fulfilling it is for her. Her motivation to serve is a love for the Lord and for people. She shines the love of Jesus for all to see and rejoices when people come to know Him for themselves. She has been a volunteer at the Pantry from the first day it opened in 2013 and in the last four years she has missed less than 2 days of service! Over the years she has developed many meaningful relationships with customers, volunteers and the CedarWood staff members. We are honored and blessed to have Diann as part of our CedarWood family. Thank you, Diann – we love you!



2017 VISION AND GOALS

- * **Begin looking for a new building large enough to support our growing weekly Pantry, our Coats and Clothing distribution, and Backpack Kids programs. A larger, personalized space will allow us to offer additional services such as vocational training, life-skills courses, and hot meals for the homeless.**
- * **To deepen and increase CedarWood's level of involvement in, and engagement with, the community.**
- * **Expanding our partnerships with other organizations to provide more efficient and effective care for our community.**



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facebook.com/cedarwoodinternational



Get Involved!

CedarWood International needs YOUR help to build stronger families! Consider donating money, food, or even volunteer your time. Monetary donations are tax-deductible. Please write checks to World For Jesus Ministries (WFJM) and mail to the address on Page 1. Please notate "CedarWood" in the memo section of your check. Online donations also accepted, just choose the "CedarWood" field when adding your donation to the cart.

THANK YOU!