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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: July 20, 2021

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### **Portland emergency food program to honor volunteers for their service during Covid-19 pandemic with awards signed by President Biden**

Since the beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic, the Northeast Emergency Food Program (NEFP) has seen a dramatic increase in people served, from an average of 2,500 individuals per month to 45,000. Between March 2020 and May 2021, over 40 million pounds of food has been distributed to nearly 800,000 people. This has given NEFP the distinction of being the Oregon Food Banks largest serving Partner Agency. Serving this many people in need has only been possible with the help of more than 300 new volunteers. Over 70 of those volunteers have contributed more than 100 hours during the Covid-19 pandemic.

On July 23, 2021, NEFP will lift up these extraordinary volunteers at the “2021 Endurance Awards Ceremony.” Each volunteer will be honored for their efforts with the Points of Light “**President’s Volunteer Service Award.**” There will also be special recognition for longstanding volunteers, as well as businesses and other programs who came to NEFP’s aid when called. Invited guests include Susannah Morgan, CEO of the Oregon Food Bank, and Sheyvette Dinkens, keynote speaker from Kansas City, Kan. The event will begin at 6 p.m. at Luther Memorial Lutheran Church, located at 4800 NE 72<sup>nd</sup> Ave., Portland, Ore.

“We wouldn’t have been able to pivot to the meet the needs of our community if it weren’t for the love and support of these amazing people. THIS is who we are. THESE are the people who made it possible. #WeAreNEFP,” said A’Jay Scipio, NEFP Program Manager.

The Northeast Emergency Food Program, a direct service program of Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon, has met the urgent food needs of our Portland metro area neighbors for nearly 40 years. NEFP also works to develop community solutions to secure access to adequate, affordable and healthy food. We ground our work in the belief that nutritious food is a basic human need and a building block for a healthy life of possibility. To learn more about NEFP, visit [emo-nefp.org](http://emo-nefp.org).

*Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon is a statewide association of faith partners working together to improve the lives of Oregonians through direct service programs, ecumenical and interreligious dialogue, creation justice and public policy advocacy*