

## Food Shelf Bounty

*Words by Soraya, art by sen*

The lack of financial stability many experienced during the covid-19 pandemic pushed us to tap into new resources. When the neighborhood food shelf moved their set up outside, we were able to see how they went about things: we watched as the volunteers began to compost the fresh food at the end of the day- and though we were happy they didn't throw it away, it was hard to see so much usable food being discarded

...a lightbulb went off!

We started frequenting the shelf to gather foods before they were composted in order to redistribute them to those in need. I connected with a network of folx who would deliver the foods (by bike or car) to different drop-off spots, encampments, and families. The delivery crew has played a major role in us getting the food to the people and we'll forever be grateful for their willingness to show up time and time again.

Not long after we got started, we got to chatting with the manager of the shelf who at times gave us access to the coolers, and told us to come by when the deliveries were being made. New volunteers are often confused by us and what we're doing until we give them the low down, and its cute as hell to see their reactions.

After the murder of George Floyd, things shifted intensely. The uprising brought on an even greater need for food with so many markets being closed. We were able to connect with a local transportation network that popped up in this time, which allowed us to reach so many more bellies.

Things are evolving constantly so we'll need to be adaptable to make it through this marathon. The future focus for us all as a collective should be to keep the momentum with donations and to volunteer to help sites stay stocked and supported. We hope this inspires you to check out your local food shelf! Remember to eat well and stay hydrated.