

Alleviating hunger by creating access to food



Lights Camera AUCTION 2017 EMPTY BOWLS DINNER & AUCTION

And the Oscar goes to....

What a night! We celebrated our 14th Annual Empty Bowls Dinner & Auction in true Oscar fashion on Friday, September 15 at the Lane Events Center. Thank you to everyone for raising enough money to provide 1 million meals for our neighbors in need! Thank you especially to chairs Gary and Jane Powell, to title sponsor Mark & Co. and to our many sponsors, donors, volunteers and guests. For photos of the event, go to tinyurl.com/fflc2017auction and tinyurl.com/seeneugene-eb2017.

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SNAP TURNS 40: COMING TOGETHER TO FIGHT HUNGER

SNAP bridges the gap for people like Debi.

"It started with the housing market tanking, and I was a realtor. My husband got laid off. He went back to school, and that's when I got cancer. He had to drop out to be my caregiver. All of that together caused us to lose our house, and we ended up homeless for a while."

"My cancer is now in full remission. We're basically rebuilding and trying to get back to feeling like we're living a normal life. SNAP and the food bank have taken worry off the table and enabled us to focus on other things. We can focus on how we are going to rebuild our lives and rebuild our careers."

FFLC sees first-hand how SNAP and other federal safety net programs ensure

that members of our community have the nutrition they need to live healthy, hunger-free lives.

SNAP is our country's first line of defense against hunger. Two out of three SNAP participants are children, seniors or people with disabilities who cannot work. Most SNAP participants who can work, do.

A community gets an economic boost when SNAP benefits are spent, and the program has funds dedicated to help people become employable. Oregon received almost \$5 million from SNAP in 2016 to support programs that help beneficiaries gain skills and work experience.

For Debi and her family, participating in SNAP allowed them to use less of their

limited income on food and more of it on other basic needs such as medical treatments, rent, school supplies and emergencies.

SNAP works. It provides ten times more food assistance than food banks are able to provide. But it takes all of us – individuals, charities, businesses and all levels of government – to make sure our neighbors have the nutrition they need to thrive.

September marked the 40th anniversary of the 1977 Food Stamp Act. Watch the video here:

tinyurl.com/keepsnapworking



Alison Voss and FFLC Senior Grocery Coordinator Carly Petersen

NEIGHBORS HELPING NEIGHBORS

We always need volunteers like you! Our Senior Grocery and Meals on Wheels Programs, in particular, need volunteers throughout the year. Senior Grocery delivers a box of food once a month to income- and age-eligible clients in Lane County.

Alison Voss volunteered for the Senior Grocery Program for a little over two years before moving to Washington this past summer. Alison covered between one and seven routes per month for the program, each with several clients. "I've got clients who are on a fixed income and in supported housing. This rounds out their budget. Everybody's really nice and very appreciative. You come to care about the people and how they're doing and realize it's a good way to get out in the community and see how things really are."

Alison recommends volunteering to anyone who has the time to help out. "It's really the least anybody can do. I was widowed about six years ago, and I was looking for something that I could do that was rewarding and didn't take a lot of time. It's a pleasure to do because it gets me out."

Don't worry about any physical limitations. If you need help, FFLC staff make sure your job is covered. We want to make the volunteering experience as comfortable for you as possible.

"All I had to do was say, 'I'm sorry I'm not physically able to do that.' [FFLC staff] helped so I was capable of doing it. They take into consideration your strengths and weaknesses. They did make sure people got their food box."

"The clients are all lovely people," said Alison. "They appreciate this at their time of life, and it's not just the food. It's the companionship and knowing that FOOD for Lane County cares and that there are people in the community that care and that's important to them too. At the end of the day I just feel good."

For more about volunteering for any of our programs, contact FFLC Volunteer Coordinator Dan Budd at (541) 343-2822 x306 or at volunteer@foodforlanecounty.org. Or sign up online at foodforlanecounty.org/volunteer.

UPCOMING EVENTS

November 1

Take a Bite Out of Hunger (location TBD)

November 3 and 4

Stuff the Bus at Eugene and Springfield Walmart stores

November 18

NEW DATE! Letter Carriers Food Drive

November 23

Turket Trot at Valley River Center

December 1

Chefs' Night Out Early Ticket Sales

January 19-21

Good Earth Home, Garden & Living Show

More info online at foodforlanecounty.org/events.

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FOOD *for* THOUGHT

■ NEWSLETTER ■ FALL 2017

Alleviating hunger by creating access to food



Dennis Carey and FFLC Warehouse Manager Brandon McNutt

FOOD FOR LANE COUNTY

770 Bailey Hill Road
Eugene, OR 97402
(541) 343-2822

VISION

*To eliminate hunger
in Lane County*

MISSION

*To alleviate hunger by
creating access to food*

We accomplish our mission by soliciting, collecting, rescuing, growing, preparing and packaging food for distribution through a countywide network of social service agencies and programs, and through public awareness, education and community advocacy.

THE DIGNITY OF WORK

Dennis Carey, 31, applied to work in our warehouse through a work experience program operated by the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians. During his six months at FFLC he gained valuable skills. In June he was hired on full-time at SnoTemp.

"He didn't have much work experience when he came to us," said FFLC Warehouse Assistant Manager Brandon McNutt. "This was his first real job. This was his first time in a warehouse. He'd never been on a forklift. He was pretty green." But Dennis is a fast learner, and he took real initiative to learn the ropes — warehouse equipment, warehouse logistics, invoicing, customer service and more.

"Customer service is such an important part of what we do in the warehouse, because our customers are also our partners," said Brandon. "Dennis really developed those skills while he was with us, and our customers loved working with him."

"I'd never been through an interview before," Dennis said. "Brandon helped me a lot." When it was time for Dennis to look for other work, Brandon took him through practice interviews, coaching him through the interview process, while making calls to find out who in the area needed warehouse help. "We helped him get an interview, but Dennis' skill set, personality and experience at FFLC really got him the job," said Brandon. "I think there's a great opportunity for him at SnoTemp. We're all really proud of him."

Asked what was the best part about being at FFLC, Dennis said, "Everybody treats you nice. Everybody shows you appreciation. I would highly recommend it. You learn a lot of skills."

*Your donations strengthen a countywide network of support.
Donate today at foodforlanecounty.org/donate or text FFLC to 41444.*



WAREHOUSE TRAINEES FIND VALUE IN HARD WORK

In our kitchen, in our warehouse, in our garden and at the Dining Room, FFLC has long provided opportunities for community members to learn new skills. This summer we were excited to launch a 12-week pilot program in workforce development, funded in part by Lane Workforce Partnership. Our first class of four trainees began training in July. They learned valuable hard and soft skills that will help them return to the workforce. In fact, the program is making a difference already. Two of our trainees — Giovanni and Falica — have secured employment. Congratulations!

“We’re always looking for ways that we can do more to serve the community and solve hunger in the short term and the long term,” said FFLC Programs & Services Director Karen Edmonds. “With this structured job training program, we’re providing a way for people to learn job skills that will ideally help get people to a place where our services aren’t necessary any more.”

At 37, Misty was finding it hard to get a job. “I’ve had a string of bad luck, but I’ve been able to overcome all that. Now I want to prove to people that I can be trusted and I’m somebody of

value. I love what FFLC stands for. Because I’ve had to get food boxes. I’ve been homeless. I’ve been homeless with my children. I know that this is going to open doors for me. I really hope it opens doors for other people, too.”

Falica was a stay-at-home mom but wanted to get back to work. “I’m super into hard work, but you have to have experience. I got that at FFLC.”

At 17, Giovanni was the youngest trainee. A recent graduate of Springfield High School, he was volunteering at Brattain House when he heard about the opportunity at FFLC. The food handler’s card he earned while at FFLC landed him a job in September.

Mental health issues kept Chandi out of the workforce for more than 15 years. Now in recovery, she’s ready to work again. “I was really excited for this opportunity because I wanted to put something on my resume. I wanted to show that I was willing to work every day and that I could be dependable.”

For more information or to apply, contact Karen Edmonds or Brandon McNutt at (541) 343-2822 or info@foodforlanecounty.org.



CHANDI GILLARD
“I was really excited to get this chance because I haven’t worked in 15 years. I want to show that I am willing to work every day and that I’m dependable.”



MISTY BARKHIMER
“I have a lot of potential. I’ve just had a string of bad luck. I want to prove to people that I can be trusted and I’m somebody of value.”



GIOVANNI AVILA
“I needed a job to help my family. When I was younger we used to get food from here, so I just want to give something back.”



FALICA BATES
“I am super into hard work. You have to have experience, and I’m getting that at FFLC. I love the warehouse. Give me a forklift to drive!”

“THANK YOU FROM THE BOTTOM OF MY HEART”

Another summer has come and gone, but thanks to you, our wonderful cooks, 72 awesome Summer Food Site Supervisors and more than 400 fabulous volunteers we were able to provide children with more than 82,000 free, nutritious meals at 54 sites throughout Lane County. Thank you to everyone for making this summer a huge success.

Said one mom, “I just wanted to thank you all for the work you do. Our family’s financial situation has changed drastically in recent months. Without the summer lunch program my children would hardly get lunch. They see it as a fun picnic instead of something we depend on. So thank you, from the bottom of my heart.”

DRIVING HUNGER OUT OF LANE COUNTY

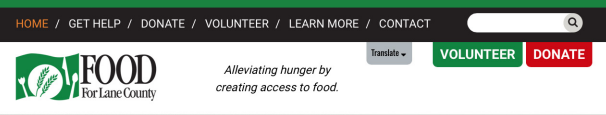
Thank you so much to these recent drives for raising over \$500 or more than 500 pounds of food. For information on holding your own drive, contact Stefani Roybal at (541) 343-2822 x351 or sroybal@foodforlanecounty.org.

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foodforlanecounty.org
- CALL**
(541) 343-2822
- TEXT**
Text FFLC to 41444
- MAIL GIFTS**
770 Bailey Hill Road
Eugene, Oregon 97402



BECOME A MONTHLY DONOR TODAY

Donating monthly is one of the most effective ways to support FFLC. Regular monthly donations help donors balance their annual giving throughout the year and provide FFLC with a steady source of financial support. Donate \$84 or more monthly and join FFLC’s Leadership Circle. Call (541) 343-2822 or sign up online. Go to foodforlanecounty.org and click on the Donate button.

Eugene Emeralds volunteer at Dining Room



LETTER TO READERS



Despite the improving economy, many people in our community still need our help. Many people have found employment and no longer need our services. But for others, their paychecks do not cover their bills. Many still must choose between paying bills and buying food. A growing number of seniors are food insecure, and too many children go to school hungry.

We are developing more services and programs to meet the needs of the people in our community. We partner with 150 programs around Lane County to deliver food. This summer we visited with some of those partners who are on the front line fighting hunger in Lane County.

Carrie Copeland is the program director at Cornerstone Community Housing, which provides quality affordable housing to low-income families and individuals. Cornerstone tenants benefit from many FFLC programs, including Senior Grocery, Summer Food, Extra Helping, Produce Plus, emergency food boxes, Cereal for Youth, Seed to Supper and cooking classes.

“A tenant at one of our properties was getting her \$42 in food stamps chopped to \$12 a month, and it was the FOOD for Lane County programs that were going to help her get by,” said Carrie. “She would not be able to have food in her household if it weren’t for FOOD for Lane County.”

When you support FFLC, you support Cornerstone residents and the thousands of people throughout Lane County who turn to us for help. Please give generously and know that your gift will be used to strengthen the community in which we live.

Beverlee Potter, Executive Director

OLSSON INDUSTRIAL ELECTRIC GARDEN IS A FEAST FOR THE EYES

We met Olsson Industrial Electric owner and president Ike Olsson and landscape architect John Pelletier, along with Olsson employees Steve Johnston and Tim Hertzog, on a sunny August morning in Springfield to tour their beautiful new garden on Laura Street.

The garden boasts 60 fruit trees including multiple varieties of apples, pears and plums. There are tomatoes, peppers, blueberries, kale, squash, green beans, cabbage, carrots, cucumbers and so much more.

The harvest will be shared with the community and FFLC. “We are going to have more fruit and more veggies than we can deal with so we can support you folks the best we can,” said Ike.

The one-acre garden is situated next to Bayberry Commons, an assisted living facility. Raised beds have been built at a comfortable height so residents can rest and enjoy the garden, an activity many of these seniors have had to give up. A row of arborvitae along the garden’s east border will eventually block some of the traffic noise from nearby Pacific Parkway.

Thank you, Olsson Electric, for your amazing generosity and community spirit!



LETTER CARRIERS DRIVE IS SATURDAY NOVEMBER 18

Mark your calendars now! We’re moving the Letter Carriers Food Drive to Saturday, November 18. Just put a plastic bag with nonperishable food by your mailbox early that morning. Your letter carrier will pick it up. Help us raise 100,000 pounds of food!

MEALS ON WHEELS RECEIVES NEW SUBARU

Congratulations to FFLC’s Meals on Wheels team for being one of 50 Meals on Wheels programs in the United States chosen to receive a free Subaru Outback! The Subaru will be used to deliver meals to seniors Monday through Friday, reducing the burden of personal vehicle use on staff and helping us reach our vulnerable seniors throughout the winter months when the Subaru’s all-wheel drive is needed.

“We estimate distributing about 400 meals per month with the new Outback,” said Roz Fox, FFLC Senior Nutrition Programs Manager. “We are so excited and grateful to Subaru of America for this very generous donation.”



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Thank you for donating to SCAN-a-Coupon. SCAN is one of the easiest ways to give where you live. SCAN a coupon at one of these participating stores.

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