

## YOUR SUPPORT MAKES A DIFFERENCE

Your gifts of food, funds and time make a difference in the lives of the people we serve. Every day. Your support strengthens a countywide network that serves Lane County residents who struggle to put food on the table — working families with children, people with disabilities, the elderly and the unhoused.

Your gifts support FFLC programs that meet people where they are, providing food to those who need it most. This countywide network is 150 strong and includes emergency food pantries, emergency meal sites, weekend snack packs for children, Meals on Wheels for seniors and fresh produce at sites including Women, Infants and Children and Volunteers in Medicine, just to name a few. With your generosity and the tireless efforts of our partner agencies, together we are making a profound difference in the lives of Lane County residents facing hunger.

Your gifts also support our efforts to effect positive change in our community. FFLC Executive Director Beverlee Potter



Your gifts strengthen a countywide network of hunger relief.

chairs the Oregon Food Bank Statewide Network and is a board member on the Oregon Food Bank board and the United Way of Lane County board. Community Engagement and Advocacy Coordinator Kara Smith, serves on the Lane County Community Health Improvement Plan Advocacy Action Team and on the Oregon Hunger Task Force.

To learn more about what we are doing to address hunger in Lane County and to find out how you can help, go to [foodforlanecounty.org](http://foodforlanecounty.org).

## FARM BILL 101

Approximately 80% of farm bill funding goes to nutrition programs — including Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), the Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) and the Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP). These programs provide critical food assistance to low-income Oregonians.

In 2016, SNAP provided over \$1 billion in food benefits to Oregonians and generated \$1.8 billion in economic activity. SNAP helps 1 in 5 rural and metro Oregon households and almost 1 in 4 small town households afford healthy, nutritious meals.

Between 2009 and 2012, SNAP kept 119,000 Oregonians out of poverty, including 54,000 children, per year. More than 80% of SNAP families had at least one working adult in the past 12 months.

Two thirds of SNAP recipients are children, elderly or disabled. The average new household stays on SNAP for less than a year, and most leave the program within two years.

SNAP supports nutrition education efforts in Oregon as well as employment and training programs to help beneficiaries gain skills or work experience. Oregon received more than \$4.8 million for employment and training programs through SNAP in 2016.

TEFAP is a commodity program that purchases and distributes food grown in the United States to low-income Americans. Organizations in Oregon received more than 11 million pounds of TEFAP food in 2016. FFLC distributes this food through emergency food pantries.



Volunteers pack bags for Senior Grocery Program

CSFP is the only USDA nutrition program that provides food assistance specially targeted to low-income seniors. Oregon received \$502,675 to help 1,700 seniors in 2016. FFLC distributes CSFP food to seniors through our Senior Grocery Program.

The next farm bill is scheduled to be reauthorized by Congress by October 2018. Contact your elected officials, and urge them to push for a strong farm bill dedicated to reducing hunger.

## THE POWER OF A SINGLE VOICE

In November, we met with 12 residents of Cornerstone Community Housing in Eugene. Cornerstone provides quality, affordable housing for people living on limited incomes and partners with FFLC to provide food and nutrition education to its residents.

The group talked about stretching limited household budgets, the challenges they face accessing nutritious and sufficient food for themselves and their families, having to choose which bills to pay and the high costs of housing and healthcare. They described how they puzzle together services and resources to get through the month — food stamps, food boxes, meals at FFLC's Dining Room and income from work, disability insurance and social security.

Chris is a Eugene native who recently moved back to Eugene from North Carolina with his wife.

“Our biggest expense is rent,” said Chris. “We’re making just enough not to be homeless. When you get behind there’s no real way to come back from that. You live with this constant cloud over your head.”

“It seems like poor people are an easy target in this country when it comes to cutting corners,” added Chris. “We always seem to put that burden on the poorest among us. It seems like when you’re poor or when you’re behind, things stack up and get you more poor and more behind.”

Chris said that he and his wife both work 30 to 40 hours a week, depending on what shifts are available. They also pick up jobs on Craigslist when they can.

“Our food stamps just got cut in half because we were making five hours more in the pay period. But the amount of money we made for those extra five hours between the two of us didn’t make up for the amount of money that we just lost on food stamps. So that one act put us behind again. That feels very frustrating.”

Follow us on Facebook to read more stories about how hunger and poverty impact people in Lane County. Go to [foodforlanecounty.org/donate](http://foodforlanecounty.org/donate) to donate today.



Chris talks about living on a limited income. Photo by Oregon Food Bank.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

February 1-15

4th Annual Grilled Cheese Experience

February 14

Dutch Luv at Lane County Dutch Bros

March 8-11

Lane County Home & Garden Show

April 3

Chefs' Night Out at the Hult Center

April 7

Spring Plant Sale at GrassRoots Garden

May 4

Empty Bowls Sale at NW Community Credit Union, 585 E 8th Avenue, Eugene

May 12

Summer Plant Sale at the Youth Farm

May 12

National Assoc. of Letter Carriers Food Drive

More info online at [foodforlanecounty.org/events](http://foodforlanecounty.org/events).

## FOLLOW US



# FOOD *for* THOUGHT

NEWSLETTER WINTER 2018

Alleviating hunger by creating access to food



Farren Mathis, Jake, Julie and Tom Johns. Photo by Territorial Seed Company.

### 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.

Editor: Denise Wendt  
Contributor: Katie Dettman  
Design: Amy Renée Design

## SHARING SEEDS OF HOPE

Territorial Seed Company owners Tom and Julie Johns have been donating seed to FFLC Gardens for more than 20 years. Over that time, the seed has resulted in tons of beautiful, nutritious produce.

“Together FFLC's GrassRoots Garden and the Youth Farm produce about 183,000 pounds of food a year, and most of that starts with Territorial Seed,” said Jen Anonia, FFLC Gardens Program manager.

“These seeds are the start of really good food,” added Jen. “It’s key to what we do, both in the growing of food and teaching people how to grow food. And it’s super high quality seed. It’s trialed here, so we know their varieties grow really well in our climate. We’re able to pick and choose what varieties we know work well for us.”

Teaching and inspiring people to grow their own food is what FFLC's gardens are all about. The Johns family share this passion. They conduct research trials on as many as 2,500 varieties a year on their 75-acre certified organic farm outside Cottage Grove.

“Home gardeners are putting their energy into growing food for their families,” said Tom. “They deserve professional quality product. We’re always looking for the best performing varieties. Our mission is to help people grow fresh-from-the-garden food 12 months of the year.”

“People left on their own might not try gardening. But with some encouragement they give it a try,” added Tom. “People are often surprised how much they can do and how much produce they can grow in a small amount of space.”

Join us in supporting companies that support FFLC. Go to [territorialseed.com](http://territorialseed.com) for more information or to request a catalog.





FFLC LAUNCHES CULINARY JOB TRAINING PROGRAM

At FFLC, we’re always looking at short- and long-term solutions to hunger, asking ourselves, “what can we do to better serve the community?” By providing job training, we’re giving individuals a long-term solution to hunger and poverty.

“We want the people going through our job training programs to learn skills and earn credentials that will help them find steady, gainful employment,” said Karen Edmonds, FFLC Programs & Services Director. “That’s our genuine hope for them.”

This summer we launched a new warehouse training program, and in January we launched an exciting new food service training program. Our second class of warehouse trainees recently completed their 12-week training program. We spoke with them in December.



ANDY BENHAM

“I’ve been volunteering for Habitat for Humanity for the past year. My girlfriend works at an FFLC partner agency. She said you guys were doing a training program. Since I’ve been volunteering already just up the road I figured I could volunteer and get some certifications on the side and try and find a job while I’m at it. In

the future I would like to work at some other nonprofit because you get to work and get paid and also get the bonus of feeling good about yourself and actually doing something good.”



DAVID GEORGE

“I’m in this program to acquire some more skills. In the past I’ve worked at day labor places, Labor Ready, places like that. I like it here. I’d like to be gainfully employed when I finish this program. My dream job is warehouse work, so this will help me do that.”



RAYMOND RASCON

“I enjoy working in the warehouse, meeting new people and learning new things to do. I’m here because I lost the use of my legs for a little while, but I got them back, and I’m going back into the workforce. I had a gap in my resume, so this helps out. I love it here. There are great people to work with, and I enjoy it.”

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

HUNGER BY THE NUMBERS

Economic stability is the most effective permanent solution to hunger and food security. If all working families and individuals earned enough to meet basic expenses, the need for food assistance and other social services would be dramatically reduced.

Oregonians also need savings to carry them through difficult times. When people are economically stable, they can rebound more quickly when faced with an economic crisis.

Numbers don’t tell the whole story, but they do help illustrate the scope of the problem. Oregon is currently the sixth hungriest

state in the United States, according to the USDA. One in seven Oregonians faces hunger, and one in six is food-insecure. According to the Oregon Department of Education, 54.3% of kids in Oregon are eligible for free and reduced school meals.

In Oregon, one in four kids is food-insecure (Map the Meal Gap 2016). Half of all food-insecure households have at least one member who is working, 50% live alone, 85% are non-hispanic and 44% are single moms. (Edwards 2016).



SCAN-A-COUPON

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OUR PARTNERS



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15 DAYS OF GRILLED CHEESE

FFLC’s 4th Annual Grilled Cheese Experience, presented by Kendall Cares, is February 1-15. Get your passport, sponsored by OnPoint Community Credit Union, at a participating restaurant. Order the featured grilled cheese item. \$2 from each sale will benefit FFLC. For every 5 stamps you collect you’ll be entered into a drawing for a GoPro. Instagram your experience using #CheeseLuv17 for a chance to win two tickets to Chefs’ Night Out at the Hult Center on April 3. For more information and complete contest rules, visit us on Facebook, or call (541) 343-2822.

1st National Taphouse • Agate Alley Bistro • The Bier Stein • Buster’s Main Street Café • Chief’s Brew House • Chow • Coast Fork Feed Co. & Brew Station • Cornbread Café • Cornucopia • Davis Restaurant (lunch only) • Falling Sky Brewing House • Falling Sky Pizzeria • Falling Sky Pour House & Deli • Fisherman’s Market • Flashback Grill • Friendly Street Market • Highway 99 Café • Jack Sprat’s Restaurant • Johnny Ocean’s Grille • Provision’s Market Hall • Sundial Café • Sweet Cheeks Winery at 5th Street Market • Wheels Café at Kendall Auto • Wild Duck Café

DRIVING HUNGER OUT OF LANE COUNTY

Thank you to everyone who supported the Letter Carriers Food Drive. After years of having the drive on the first two Saturdays in December, we moved it to the Saturday before Thanksgiving to make it easier on Letter Carriers. We held our breath, and hoped for the best. And the best happened! You donated 107,250 pounds of food. Thank you to everyone who helped with the drive. Thank you to Outfront Media for donating multiple billboards to help spread the word! You are all hunger heroes!

Thank you also to these recent drives for raising over \$500 or more than 500 pounds of food. For information on holding your own drive, please contact Stefani Roybal at (541) 343-2822 x124 or [sroybal@foodforlanecounty.org](mailto:sroybal@foodforlanecounty.org).

5th Street Public Market • Barre3 • Brookdale Eugene Alpine Springs • Brookdale Springfield Briarwood • Cash & Carry • Eugene Glass School • First Story/Hayden Homes • First Tech Federal Credit Union • First United Methodist Church • Grace Community Fellowship • KDUK & US101 • KVAL • Lane County Fair Board • Lane Rural Fire & Rescue • Lube It USA • Marist High School • Newman Center • North Coast Electric Co • Oak Hill School • OSPiRG • Overtime Tavern • PetSmart • Rosen Aviation • SELCO Community Credit Union • US Postal Service

SUBARU SHARES THE LOVE

In October, our Meals on Wheels program gleefully received a 2018 Subaru Outback as part of the “Subaru Loves to Help” initiative. With the new vehicle, FFLC is able to deliver 400 meals each month to Eugene residents. The donated 2018 Subaru Outback is wrapped with Meals on Wheels America and “Subaru Loves to Help” co-branding, so it is easily recognized on the road. FFLC is one of 50 Meals on Wheels programs chosen throughout the country to receive a vehicle. Happy 50th Anniversary and thank you to Subaru of America and Meals on Wheels America for serving Lane County seniors!

LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR! YOUR GIFT MATCHED IN FEBRUARY

Thanks to a generous donor, all February gifts will be matched up to \$50,000. Donate online at [foodforlanecounty.org/donate](http://foodforlanecounty.org/donate), call (541) 343-2822, text FFLC to 41444 or mail your gift. For more ways to give, go to [foodforlanecounty.org/donate](http://foodforlanecounty.org/donate).



WAYS TO DONATE



DONATE ONLINE

[foodforlanecounty.org/donate](http://foodforlanecounty.org/donate)



MAIL GIFTS

770 Bailey Hill Road  
Eugene, Oregon 97402



CALL

(541) 343-2822



TEXT

FFLC to 41444

Carrot harvest at FFLC’s GrassRoots Garden



LETTER TO READERS



How the tax plan approved by Congress will impact charitable giving is unclear. A higher standard deduction means fewer taxpayers will itemize their deductions on their tax returns, reducing the incentive to give to charities.

At the same time, we are also concerned there may be changes to the social safety net that serves the people who rely on us and a variety of government programs to put food on the table.

We know that for many of you a tax deduction is not why you give. You give because you believe in the work we do and you want to support it. You give regardless of — or because of — the political climate.

Individual donors provide more than half (52.6%) of our

total operating revenue. Financial support from individual donors sustains critical FFLC programs that provide food and education to thousands of Lane County families and individuals in need.

**In February, an anonymous donor will match all financial gifts up to \$50,000.** This generous gift will go a long way in keeping pantry shelves stocked. Please consider making a gift in February. You can donate safely online at [foodforlanecounty.org](http://foodforlanecounty.org) or call (541) 343-2822.

How will this tax reform legislation impact charitable giving in 2018? We don’t know. If you are in the habit of deducting your charitable contributions, we hope that you will continue to give generously. We hope you see the value in your gift and would love to tell you more about everything we do — from food boxes and gardens to senior meals and summer lunches for kids.

*Beverlee Potter, Executive Director*

HUNGER ON CAMPUS



A college degree is one path toward economic success. Tuition can be a barrier to achieving that dream, but hunger and homelessness also stand in the way for many would-be college graduates. Research on how students finance college

revealed that the main barrier to degree completion isn’t tuition — it’s having a place to sleep and enough food to eat. Surveys at the UO, OSU and Portland State University found that more than half of students at all three schools are considered food insecure. Just as many struggle with housing insecurity, and a significant number are homeless.

In January, the Oregon Hunger Task Force took an in-depth look at food insecurity on college and university campuses. The one-day listening session at the University of Oregon was sponsored by FOOD for Lane County, Associated Students of the UO, UO Episcopal Campus Ministry, Falling Sky Brewing, UO Food Studies Program and the UO Student Sustainability Center.

Community members, university students, administrators and elected officials from across the state gathered in Eugene on January 23 to hear student experiences, learn about best

practices and consider policy changes for building food security among college students.

FFLC provides food to the Student Food Pantry at Episcopal Campus Ministry near the UO, which serves any area college student with a student ID, and the Rainy Day Food Pantry, which serves LCC students and families.

To read about the listening session, follow us on Facebook.



Tuesday, April 3  
at the Hult Center

Your support of Chefs’ Night Out 2017 provided more than 330,000 meals for Lane County residents facing hunger. Join us for Chefs’ Night Out 2018, presented by King Estate, on Tuesday, April 3, at the Hult Center.

**Get your tickets now!**  
[hultcenter.org](http://hultcenter.org)  
(541) 682-5000

General Admission \$65  
After February 28 \$75  
VIP Early Admission \$90