

Alleviating hunger by creating access to food

REMEMBERING JAMES “JYM” JANN

FFLC’s Family Dinner Program manager Josie McCarthy offered this remembrance.

This fall we lost a dear friend of the Dining Room and FFLC. Jym Jann came knocking on the side door at the Dining Room almost a decade ago. His engineering firm had given him an early retirement and he had some spare time. For everyone who knew Jym, he didn’t have spare time for long.

Jym continued to volunteer over 1,700 hours. He became our relief kitchen coordinator when we were short staffed. His quirky sense of humor, his ability to find a pun in almost every sentence and his compassion for our dinner guests were nothing short of effervescent.

Jym was a voice for social justice issues in Lane County. He helped so many people living in extreme poverty and still had time to write letters and make phone calls to politicians. He lived the belief that it was his civic duty to help those in need.



Jym Jann

Blessings and gratitude, Jym. I know you are out there somewhere thinking on how to make a few puns on my words.

FARM BILL SIGNED INTO LAW

Thanks to tireless advocacy efforts here and in Washington DC, the 2018 Farm Bill was signed into law in December. The bipartisan bill funds critical programs that address hunger and food production in Oregon and across the country.

The Farm Bill protects and strengthens the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and the Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP). These programs help families and individuals in need put food on the table, and food banks nationwide depend on them.

The Farm Bill renews TEFAP, which provides food and financial assistance to food banks. TEFAP provides food banks with nutritious

food grown in the United States to distribute to families in need, including more than 16 million individuals who do not qualify for SNAP assistance. The bill increases food purchase funding, which benefits hunger-relief efforts across the country.

SNAP is the single largest program aimed at curbing hunger and helps put food into the hands of more than 40 million Americans. SNAP benefits 1 in 6 Oregonians, including more than 60,000 people in Lane County. More than 24,000 children in Lane County are SNAP recipients. Two out of three SNAP recipients are children, seniors or people with disabilities.

STATE OF HUNGER

Oregon State University sociology professor Mark Edwards has for years helped hunger advocates in Oregon make sense of hunger data, especially USDA reports. Efforts are underway now to untangle the latest USDA Food Insecurity report released in September to determine what the results mean for Oregon.

Here’s a sneak peek. Oregon continues to show improvement in household food insecurity. At 12.9%, it is slightly better than the previous 14.6% and closely resembles the rate of food insecurity in the United States as a whole.

Oregon’s improved economy has something to do with the decline. But hunger persists. Almost 500,000 Oregon adults and children

are food insecure, including 210,000 adults and children who do not know where their next meal will come from.

In Oregon, renters, single mothers, women who live alone and people of color experience food insecurity at double, sometimes triple the rate of the population as a whole.



Junction City Local Aid

TOGETHER WE ACCOMPLISH MORE

At our annual Partner Agency Conference in October we once again celebrated the efforts of more than 150 organizations that partner with FFLC to distribute food. The list includes meal sites, emergency shelters, supplemental food programs, Extra Helping sites, Produce Plus sites, programs for children and seniors and more. Without them — and without your continued support — we could not provide for the people in our county who desperately need our help. Thank you.

Congratulations to this year’s Justice of Eating Award winners. The Award honors those who have made significant contributions to hunger relief in Lane County.

HYLAND AUTO SALES began their support of Daily Bread food pantry in Eugene in March 2017. Hyland owners, employees and family and friends of employees have contributed time to the pantry — from inventory and logistics to food pickup, intake and working with clients. Daily Bread served more than 6,400 clients last year, distributing more than 217,000 pounds of food.

JUNCTION CITY LOCAL AID marked 73 years of service in 2018. With an emergency food pantry, weekly food staples and other forms of assistance, Junction City Local Aid works to harness community resources and compassion to provide for those most vulnerable. They work to provide their clients with more choices, a nutritionally balanced offering of food and education around food selections. Junction City Local Aid works closely with area farmers and gardeners to provide fresh, local produce during the summer months. They benefit from the support of more than 70 core volunteers every month.

MARIO GONZALEZ is a stellar volunteer for Catholic Community Services Springfield food pantry. Mario has volunteered three days a week for five hours a day for over 10 years, longer than any current pantry staff or volunteer. The impact of Mario’s work is felt throughout the agency. Spanish-speaking families who come through the pantry enjoy talking and joking with him. He has a way of making kids laugh. Clients look forward to seeing Mario and ask for him when he is not there. He makes the experience of coming to get a food box, which can be humbling, a more enjoyable experience. Pantry staff can’t imagine life without him.

UPCOMING EVENTS

February 1-28

All gifts matched up to \$100,000 in February. See this newsletter for ways to give.

February 1-28

5th Annual Grilled Cheese Experience at participating restaurants

February 1-28

Governor’s State Employees Food Drive

February 14

Dutch Luv at Eugene and Springfield Dutch Bros

Saturday, April 6

Spring Plant Sale at GrassRoots Garden 10am-4pm

Monday, April 8

29th Annual Chefs’ Night Out at the Hult Center

Saturday, May 11

National Association of Letter Carriers Food Drive

Saturday, May 11

Summer Plant Sale at the Youth Farm 10am-4pm

More info online at foodforlanecounty.org/events.

FOLLOW US



FOOD *for* THOUGHT

■ NEWSLETTER ■ WINTER 2019

Alleviating hunger by creating access to food



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
Design: Amy Renée Design

REBUILDING A LIFE

At 41, Adam is ready to start a new life. The father of two — Alex is 12 and Nick is 7 — completed FFLC’s warehouse training program in January. With his new skills Adam hopes to find a job that will support his family.

“FFLC’s job training program is a way to get back on my feet,” said Adam. “I want to live a normal life, pay bills, eventually get a house. I want to set a good example for my kids. I want to be someone they can be proud of.”

Adam’s sons live with his mom for now while Adam completes a residential treatment program for drug and alcohol addiction — addictions complicated by the fact that he has diagnoses of bipolar disorder and schizophrenia.

“Living with a mental illness can be challenging,” said Adam. “And beating drugs and alcohol isn’t easy. For me, relapse is not an option.”

Adam would someday like to volunteer helping people with mental illness who are also struggling with addictions.

“I remember the first couple months I was clean and sober I thought ‘wow! I haven’t been sober in 20 years!’ And then six months went by, and I’m even better than I was six months ago. I didn’t think that was possible. I don’t want to lose that momentum.”

“I’ve learned that time will tell a good situation from a bad one. It’s like panning for gold. First you have to sift through the mud and the rocks and the dirt, but eventually you’ll find little bits of gold.”

DOUBLE YOUR GIFT IN FEBRUARY

Your gift supports job training programs that give people like Adam valuable skills. All gifts in February will be matched up to \$100,000! Donate today at foodforlanecounty.org/donate or call (541) 343-2822.



GIVING TRAINEES A FRESH START

Thank you to SELCO Community Credit Union for providing financial support for FFLC’s culinary job training program. By providing job training, FFLC is giving individuals a long-term solution to hunger and poverty.

Over the 12 weeks of training, students master skills in kitchen safety, basic culinary knowledge and customer service. They learn basic nutrition education and complete classes in financial literacy and resumé writing.

“Students are excited to find work in the food and beverage industry and feel prepared for what’s next,” said Carrie Copeland, FFLC Education Programs Manager. “And we are excited for them! In our kitchen, in our warehouse, in our gardens and at the Dining Room, FFLC is providing opportunities for community members to learn new skills. We’re helping people with barriers to employment get to a place where food assistance is no longer necessary.”

“As a credit union whose mission is to improve our community members’ social and economic position, we couldn’t pass up the chance to support the Fresh Start Program,” said Ashlee Jacobson, Marketing & Community Relations Specialist for SELCO Community Credit Union. “What an innovative and engaging way to help open doors while enhancing the health of our community in the process. The best kind of win-win.”



SELCO Fresh Start Program

WELCOME NEW PARTNERS

Your generous support allows us to provide hunger relief, nutrition education and job training for Lane County residents who struggle to put food on the table and face barriers to employment. Our countywide network of 159 food distribution partners is vast and varied. Thank you for strengthening this vital network of support.

We recently welcomed two new meal sites — Hearth & Table at Central Lutheran Church and Keeper’s Cafe at First United Methodist Church. Welcome also to Oregon Family Support Network, Cornerstone Community Housing at Richardson Bridge and Ya-Po-Ah Terrace.

Thanks to our partnership with Trillium that is helping with rural outreach, we also welcomed these new Trillium Produce Plus sites — Cottage Grove Community Medical Center, PeaceHealth Dexter Clinic, UO Student Sustainability Center, Junction City Medical Center, McKenzie Medical Center, Orchid Health in Oakridge and Peace Harbor in Florence.

PUT THE FUN IN CROWDFUNDING

FFLC is reaching out to a new generation of donors through online crowdfunding. Crowdfunding is an easy way to support FFLC and a fun way to inspire friends and family to join you in giving!

Start by joining our Birthday Club. Celebrate your birthday or honor someone else’s. It’s as easy as 1, 2, 3.

1. Go to <https://fundraise.foodforlanecounty.org/Birthday> and click on BECOME A FUNDRAISER!
2. SET YOUR GOAL and personalize your page.
3. SHARE your page through Facebook, Twitter and email! That’s the only way to get people to give to your page.

For more information on other ways to crowdfund or for help setting up your account, contact Stefani Roybal at sroybal@foodforlanecounty.org or (541) 343-2822.

THANK YOU FOR GIVING WHERE YOU LIVE

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

5th Street Haunted Market • Barre3 • Brookdale Springfield Briarwood • Crossfit Intensify • Eugene Yoga • First Interstate Bank • KDUK & US101 Stuff the Bus • KVAL Take a Bite out of Hunger • Letter Carriers Holiday Drive • Lube It USA • Macy’s • Market of Choice Holiday Drive • Oak Hill School • Overtime Grill • Papé Machinery • Papé Material Handling • SELCO Community Credit Union • Shadow Hills Women’s Club • Smart Food Service • South Eugene High School • St. Mary’s Episcopal Church • St. Thomas More Newman Center • Temple Beth Israel • The Frightuary • Trillium Health Break the Bank • Univera Turkey Trot • UO Women’s Softball

COLLABORATION WORKS

OSU Extension Service presented FFLC with a Cooperator Award in recognition of our involvement with and support of the Lane County Master Food Preservers, Master Gardeners, SNAP education, the Food Pantry Project, nutrition education programming and Alliance for Healthy Families.

We were nominated by our local OSU Extension office and were one of several inspirational awardees from around the state.

“I heard from OSU Extension staff how great a partner agency trainer Nathan is, how helpful and friendly Jon and Andy are in the warehouse, how people rave about Dana’s nutrition education classes, how much they learned at Jen’s Seed to Supper classes and how much they enjoy partnering with FFLC,” said Karen Edmonds, FFLC Program & Services Director.

Thank you to all staff who work with OSU Extension’s many volunteers and staff, and thank you to our generous donors and volunteers for supporting the work we do. It’s truly collaboration at work.



Nutrition education class

WAYS TO DONATE

-  **DONATE ONLINE**
foodforlanecounty.org/donate
-  **MAIL GIFTS**
770 Bailey Hill Road
Eugene, Oregon 97402
-  **CALL**
(541) 343-2822

DOUBLE YOUR GIFT IN FEBRUARY

Thanks to the generosity of an anonymous donor, all your financial gifts will be matched up to \$100,000 throughout the month of February. Here are just a few of the ways to double your gift in February.

GRILLED CHEESE EXPERIENCE
February 1-28. See this newsletter for a list of participating restaurants.

DUTCH LUV
February 14 at Dutch Bros locations in Eugene and Springfield

SCAN A COUPON
See this newsletter for a list of stores.

CLASSY.ORG
See this newsletter for more on online crowdfunding and peer-to-peer fundraising.

GOVERNOR’S STATE EMPLOYEES FOOD DRIVE
All your gifts will be doubled during the month of February.

LETTER TO READERS



On behalf of the more than 70,000 people who turned to us for help in 2018, thank you — for your kindness, your compassion and your generosity. Thank you for acknowledging hunger in our community and choosing to help.

Thanks also to a generous anonymous donor who will match dollar for dollar all donations in February up to \$100,000. I hope you will take advantage of this opportunity to make your donation go even further.

Oregon’s economy continues to improve, but many of our neighbors still struggle to put food on the table. A sobering 44% of Lane County households do not earn enough to cover their basic needs (2016 ALICE Report). Many households work hard, sometimes at two or three jobs, but still cannot afford to make ends meet. More than half of the people we serve are working, retired or disabled.

There are many reasons why people still struggle in an improving economy. In Oregon, the cost of the family budget increased 34% between 2010 and 2016 — much higher than the 9% national rate of inflation. Too many households struggle under the burden of low wages, reduced work hours, fixed incomes, a lack of affordable housing, high child care costs, medical expenses, student debt and depleted savings.

There is good news. The rate of hunger is going down slightly in Oregon. Recent efforts to protect and strengthen the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) were successful in avoiding major cuts to this all important resource for thousands of Lane County residents.

Your gift matters to us and the people we serve. Every dollar strengthens a countywide network of 159 community groups that partner with FFLC to provide food. Your gifts support food distribution, food recovery programs and self-sufficiency programs that provide job training, gardening education and nutrition education. We are grateful for your support.

Beverlee Potter, Executive Director

IT’S CHEESY OUTSIDE! GRILLED CHEESE EXPERIENCE STARTS FEBRUARY 1



It’s time to get your cheese on! FFLC’s 5th Annual Grilled Cheese Experience is for a whole month starting February 1. Grilled Cheese Experience is presented by Kendall Cares. Thank you also to these sponsors — 1120 KPNW, KMTR 16, US 101, Kool 99.1, Don’s Maytag, 104.7 KDUK and Bumble Graphics.

Purchase the featured sandwich at one of these participating restaurants. \$4* from every sale benefits FFLC’s hunger relief efforts in Lane County. Pick up a passport at the restaurant for a chance to win a GoPro

camera. Instagram your experience at #CheeseLuv19 for a chance to win Chefs’ Night Out tickets.

- The 99 Grill • Agate Alley Bistro • The Bier Stein • Buddy’s Diner • Buster’s Main Street Cafe • Davis Restaurant** • Elk Horn Brewery • Falling Sky Brewing House • Falling Sky Pizzeria • Falling Sky Pour House Deli • First National Taphouse • Fisherman’s Market • Flashback Grill • Jack Sprats • La Granada Latin Kitchen • Party Bar • Party @ Friendly • Johnny Ocean’s Grille • Pig & Turnip • Plank Town • Provisions Market Hall • Sixth Street Grill • Wheels Cafe @ Kendall Auto • Wild Duck Cafe

* \$2 match from an anonymous donor
** lunch only



Monday, April 8
at the Hult Center

Your support of Chefs’ Night Out provides more than 300,000 meals for Lane County residents facing hunger. Join us for FFLC’s 29th Annual Chefs’ Night Out 2019, presented by King Estate, on Monday, April 8, at the Hult Center.

\$65 General Admission (\$75 after February 28)
\$95 Early Entrance at 5:30pm

Get your tickets now!
hultcenter.org
(541) 343-2822



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Thank you for donating to SCAN a Coupon. SCAN is an easy way to give where you live. SCAN today at one of these participating stores.

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