

# PRODUCE DROPS ADDRESS HUNGER ON CAMPUS

Twice a month, University of Oregon students who qualify can pick up free veggies at the Erb Memorial Union thanks to FFLC's Trillium Produce Plus Program. The program, now in its second year, is one of several UO initiatives designed to address food insecurity on campus.

Taylor McHolm is Program Director for the University of Oregon Student Sustainability Center.

"The typical refrain is that hunger in college is a kind of rite of passage, that you're supposed to get by on eating hot dogs and Top Ramen because that's what we all did. Our students are in a different position than that. Today students are taking on a tremendous amount of student debt in order to move forward."

A survey of UO students showed that 37% of students were food insecure within the past 30 days of taking the survey.

Cassidy is a second year Master's student and a graduate employee (GE). She appreciates the extra help she gets from FFLC's Trillium Produce Plus Program.

"Last year I worked a couple different jobs in addition to being a GE," said Cassidy. "That made it a lot easier to make ends meet. Now I decided only to work one job so I can finish my thesis. Because I have less time devoted to working another job, it's been really difficult to make ends meet with all my other bills. Any time I can get some extra help, I definitely need it."



UO Produce Drop

"Student food insecurity doesn't follow the traditional trends of food insecurity," said Taylor. "It moves in and out according to where you are in the term, what your last set of bills were and how often you've been paid through your student job."

"What we see is this intermittent one- to two-week period where students fall into food insecurity," added Taylor. "Programs like Produce Plus are designed to bridge those gaps."

# MAKE A CHARITABLE GIFT IN 2020

The new year is the perfect time to plan your charitable giving for 2020. If you have an IRA and will be turning 70 1/2 or older in 2020, you can fight hunger and reduce your tax liability at the same time.

In 2017, Congress made permanent the qualified charitable distribution (QCD). Many donors who are 70 1/2 or older like to take advantage of this opportunity by directing their annual required minimum distributions (RMDs) to their favorite charity.

Donors can transfer up to \$100,000 directly from an IRA to the charity of their choice to satisfy the RMD without incurring taxable income. (Note that the QCD does not generate a charitable deduction. Instead, you avoid paying income tax on the RMD that would otherwise be paid to you.)

To take advantage of the QCD, the gift must transfer directly from your IRA plan administrator to FFLC. The check must be made

payable to the charity and delivered to the charity. To initiate the transfer, contact your IRA plan administrator and provide FFLC's name, mailing address and bank info found on our website (if making your gift by wire transfer). You might even consider setting this up to happen on an annual basis.

The new year is also a great time to talk with your tax or financial advisor about other ways you might include FFLC through deferred gifts, such as beneficiary designations on retirement accounts, annuities and life insurance policies, as well as bequests in wills or living trusts.

Thank you for thinking about how you can make a meaningful impact on your neighbors who experience hunger.

*This is general information and not intended as investment advice. Please consult with a tax professional regarding your individual situation.*



Grilled Cheese Experience

# LEAP INTO GRILLED CHEESE

Enjoy 29 days of delicious grilled cheese! FFLC's 6th Annual Grilled Cheese Experience, presented by Kendall Cares, is February 1-29. Thank you also to these sponsors — 1120 KPNW, KMTR 16, US 101, Kool 99.1, 104.7 KDUK and Bumble Graphics.



Purchase the featured sandwich at one of these participating restaurants. Thanks to a matching grant, \$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 #CheeseLuv20 for a chance to win Chefs' Night Out tickets. Join our Facebook group for even more ways to win: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/GrilledCheeseExperienceFFLC>.

*The 99 Grill • Agate Alley Bistro • The Bier Stein • Buddy's Diner • Cheese Bliss • Cornbread Café Eugene and Springfield • Doug's Place • Elk Horn Brewery • Falling Sky Brewing House • Falling Sky Pizzeria • Falling Sky Pour House & Deli • First National Taphouse • Fisherman's Market • Flashback Grill • Franz Grilled Cheese Truck • Hilltop Bar & Grill • Jack Sprats Restaurant • Mandy's Family Restaurant • Pig & Turnip • Plank Town • Provisions Market Hall • Rackhouse BBQ • The Sandwich League • Sixth Street Grill • Wheels Café @ Kendall Auto • Wild Duck Café*

# NEW LOCATION! 30TH ANNUAL CHEFS' NIGHT OUT MOVES TO THE GRADUATE EUGENE

Join us March 30 at one of Lane County's premier hotels, the Graduate Eugene. We're celebrating 30 years of partnering with the area's finest restaurants.



Presented by King Estate Winery, Chefs' Night Out is a foodie's dream come true. Purchase a ticket at [foodforlanecounty.org](https://foodforlanecounty.org) or call (541) 343-2822, and spend the evening sampling bites and sips from Lane County's finest restaurants and beverage purveyors. Thank you also to these generous sponsors — The West Family, Jerry's Home Improvement Centers and KVAL 13.

Monday, March 30 • 6:30pm-9pm  
Graduate Eugene • 66 E. 6th Avenue, Eugene  
\$65 General Admission • (\$75 after February 29) • \$95 Early Entrance at 5:30pm

# UPCOMING EVENTS

*February 1–March 14*  
All gifts matched up to \$150,000

*February 1–29*  
6th Annual Grilled Cheese Experience at participating restaurants

*February 1–29*  
Governor's State Employees Food Drive

*February 14*  
Dutch Luv at Eugene and Springfield  
Dutch Bros

*February & March*  
Love Your Neighbor School Food Drive

*Monday, March 30*  
NEW LOCATION!  
30th Annual Chefs' Night Out  
at Graduate Eugene

*Saturday, April 4*  
Spring Plant Sale at GrassRoots Garden  
10am-4pm

*Friday, May 1*  
Empty Bowls Sale at The Dining Room

*Saturday, May 9*  
National Association of Letter Carriers Food Drive

*Saturday, May 9*  
Summer Plant Sale at the Youth Farm  
10am-4pm

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

# FOLLOW US



# FOOD *for* THOUGHT

■ NEWSLETTER ■ WINTER 2020



# FOOD FOR LANE COUNTY

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

# MISSION

*To reduce hunger by engaging our community to create 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.

# VISION

*To end hunger in Lane County*

# "MY LIFE HAS DONE A 180"

Before Steve found the Mid Lane Love Project food pantry in Veneta, he was living with his dog in a pump house on an abandoned piece of property two miles out of town. A friend dropped him off there and never came back.

"Between the drinking and the drugs, I wasn't even surviving. I was existing," said the 57-year-old Brooklyn native. He had survived three pulmonary embolisms and was still suffering from the effects of those attacks. "I was living day to day, looking for food, trying to get money, trying to find a place to live. I was in pretty bad shape."

He had nothing to eat or drink. He was hungry and thirsty. He tried to walk the two miles into town, but he was too weak to make it. Finally, after almost a week without food or water, he walked into town.

"After that I walked to town every day. I found myself sitting on the bench outside the Love Project. They'd give me a sandwich, and they'd give my dog some water."

Mid Lane Love Project is one of more than 30 food pantries that partner with FFLC to distribute food. One day, Steve overheard a volunteer say they were short handed. He raised his hand and offered to help. That was two years ago. Since then he has become a trusted volunteer.

"Since the day I walked into the Love Project my life has done a 180. With the help of Corinne my manager I was able to get my disability check, which gave me money. I was able to buy a truck for transportation. I moved out of the pump house and got my own trailer that I rent from another Love Project volunteer. I have a place to live. I have a vehicle. I have friends. Nothing but good things."

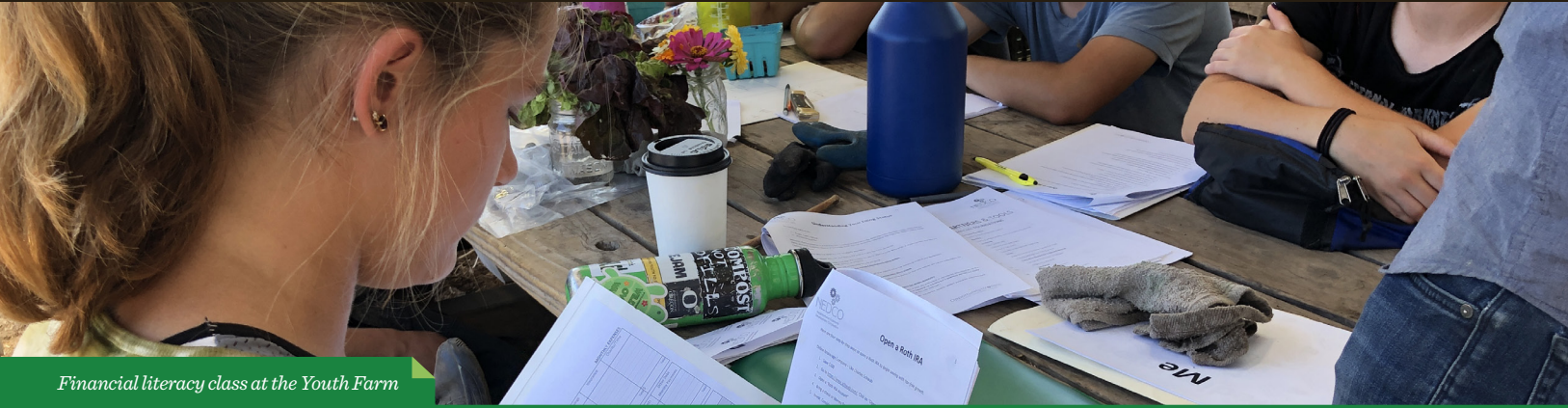
"People really do care," he said, choking back tears. "I didn't have that in my life. It restored my faith in humanity."

# DOUBLE YOUR GIFT IN FEBRUARY AND MARCH

Between February 1 and March 14, all gifts will be matched up to \$150,000 thanks to a generous anonymous donor. Donate securely online at [foodforlanecounty.org/donate](https://foodforlanecounty.org/donate) or call (541) 343-2822 and double your gift today.

*Editor:* Denise Wendt  
*Design:* Amy Renée Design





Financial literacy class at the Youth Farm

## YOU MADE THIS POSSIBLE

Here are a few of the things we accomplished together in fiscal year 2018-2019. Thank you for making a positive difference in the lives of so many of your neighbors.

With your generous support and working with more than 150 partners throughout Lane County, we distributed more than 8 million pounds of food to Lane County families and individuals in need.

More than 4,000 community volunteers donated over 79,000 hours to keep FFLC programs running, including the Dining Room where volunteers provided 37,000 meals.

Volunteers rescued, prepared and packaged over 2 million pounds of food in our kitchen through Food Rescue Express and Fresh Alliance.

Youth farmers and volunteers grew and harvested over 100,000 pounds of fresh, organic produce from our Youth Farm and GrassRoots Garden.

Thanks to you, we served more than 65,000 meals to children during the summer and 340,000 snacks to children during the school year.

With your support, 21 people graduated from our Job Training programs, including 13 who found employment after graduation.

## YOU MADE A DIFFERENCE

Thank you to everyone who helped protect and move forward critical issues to end hunger in Oregon. Here are some of the successes that could not have happened without your help.

Thanks to you, Oregon is the first state in the country to provide universal school meals, going further than any other state to ensure students have access to free meals at school.

Thanks to statewide investments in Double Up Food Bucks, for every dollar spent on SNAP-eligible foods at participating farmers markets, SNAP recipients now receive an additional dollar to spend on Oregon-grown fruits and veggies, up to \$20.

Your efforts helped expand SNAP eligibility to 44,000 college students experiencing hunger.

You advocated for significant investments in Emergency Rent Assistance, Rapid Re-Housing Resources and Emergency Shelter Support through the Emergency Housing Account (EHA) and the State Homelessness Assistance Program (SHAP).

Your support resulted in the renewal of the Crop Donation Tax Credit for farmers, which helps offset the costs to harvest, store and transport farm produce donations.

## DRIVING HUNGER OUT OF LANE COUNTY

Thank you to these generous drives for raising 500 or more pounds of food or \$500 or more to ease hunger in Lane County. To organize your own drive, contact Stefani Roybal at [sroybal@foodforlanecounty.org](mailto:sroybal@foodforlanecounty.org) or (541) 343-2822 x124.

5th Street Market • Air-Weigh Scales • Central Lutheran Church • Church World Service • Conscious Alliance • Crossfit Evviva • Emerald Empire Federal Credit Union • Eugene Emeralds • Jones and Roth • 94.7 KDUK and US101 Country • KVAL 13 • National Association of Letter Carriers Food Drive • Love Your Neighbor School Food Drive Competition • LTD • LubeIt USA • Moss Adams • Oregon Community Credit Union • Papé Kenworth • Papé Machinery C & F • Smart Foodservice • So Delicious Dairy Free • Spicy Bowl VI • Springfield High School • Temple Beth Israel • Timber Pointe Senior Living • Walmart

## "I'VE BEEN THERE"

We are privileged to do the work we do. FFLC Community and Donor Engagement Coordinator Stefani Roybal and FFLC Warehouse Assistant Cee Graham shared these stories from Stuff the Bus.

"A young woman came to Stuff the Bus and brought a couple cans onto the bus," said Stefani. "She wanted to look inside. She saw the pile of food and her eyes got wide and then teary. She said, 'I've been there, needing the help. I don't feel like these couple of cans make a difference.' I thanked her and reminded her that every little bit adds up to make that big pile and that she was part of it. She came back 10 minutes later with a bigger bag of food and a huge smile on her face."

"I was approached by a man I thought might be homeless," said Cee. "He was very proud to hand over some food that he purchased at Walmart for \$2. I was struck by the fact that he may have needed that \$2 himself. This makes all those sore muscles and long hours worked worth it."

"These are just a few of the many stories we hear from people who receive help and want to return the kindness," said Stefani. "We live in a generous place. I am humbled to work where so many people are helping people get to a place where they feel like they can give back."



Stuff the Bus

## 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

## DOUBLE YOUR GIFT!

Thanks to the generosity of an anonymous donor, financial gifts made from February 1 through March 14 will be matched up to \$150,000. Here are just a few ways to double your gift in February and March.

### BECOME A MONTHLY DONOR

Regular monthly donations help donors balance their annual giving throughout the year and provide FFLC with a steady source of financial support. Sign up online or call (541) 343-2822.

### 6TH ANNUAL GRILLED CHEESE EXPERIENCE

February 1-29. See this newsletter for a list of participating restaurants.

### LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR FOOD DRIVE

Schools (PreK and K-12) are invited to compete in this food drive through February and March. Trophies will be awarded to the school with the most pounds and the most pounds per student. To sign up contact Stefani Roybal at (541) 343-2822 x124 or [sroybal@foodforlanecounty.org](mailto:sroybal@foodforlanecounty.org).

### GOVERNOR'S STATE EMPLOYEES DRIVE

All your gifts will be doubled during the month of February.

### DUTCH LUV

February 14 at Dutch Bros locations in Eugene and Springfield

### SCAN A COUPON

Scan a \$1, \$5 or \$10 coupon at one of our SCAN partners listed in this newsletter.

## LETTER TO READERS



FOOD for Lane County is doubling our warehouse and cold storage space, dramatically increasing our capacity to reduce hunger in Lane County.

FFLC is in the final stages of purchasing and renovating our new food distribution center, located at 2345 West Broadway in Eugene.

We will follow that with a major renovation at our existing 770 Bailey Hill Road facility.

We're expanding because the need for food assistance in our community remains too high. Despite an improving economy, nearly one in five Lane County residents still have incomes below the federal poverty level.

We can get more fresh produce and other perishable food items, but we need more cold storage. Two years ago, we had to turn away nearly a million pounds of perishable food because of a lack of space.

This campaign will enable us to accept and distribute more fresh produce. It will also help us expand our volunteer-powered innovations for recovering, repackaging and processing local food donations.

We've received \$5.2 million in gifts and pledges toward the campaign goal of \$8.5 million. To learn how you can help, contact FFLC Development Director Sally Dougherty at (541) 343-2822 x143 or [sdougherty@foodforlanecounty.org](mailto:sdougherty@foodforlanecounty.org).

*Tom Mulhern, Executive Director*



Kibble on Wheels

## THE PURRRFECT GIFT FOR THE HOLIDAYS

Thank you to VCA Animal Hospitals in Eugene and Springfield for raising over \$5,000 for FFLC's Kibble on Wheels Program. Kibble on Wheels provides free dog and cat food for Eugene Meals on Wheels recipients.

"We know how important pets are to the well-being of seniors in our community," said Roz Fox, FFLC Programs and Services Director. "We are glad to be able to alleviate some of the financial and physical burden of keeping pets healthy and well nourished."

Thank you also to Leslie and Craig Beekman for organizing a pet food drive and to everyone who donated to the drive. The

donation brought in almost 2,800 pounds of cat and dog food. This is the third year the Beekmans and their friends have donated to Kibble on Wheels, and the donation gets bigger every year. This year they had to bring two pick-up trucks to drop off the donation.

"When someone struggles financially, so do their pets," said Leslie. "It's enough for those humans to know where their next meal will come from, let alone a furry one. Sometimes for an older person all they have is their furfriend, so having meals provided to them means the world. I am beyond blessed by all of your generosity. It means more than you can ever know."



## SCAN A COUPON

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.

Market of Choice • Down to Earth • The Kiva  
Friendly Street Market • Capella Market  
Sundance Natural Foods

## OUR PARTNERS



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