



Plank Town Brewing Company, Bacon Nation and Cheese Bliss



Chefs' Night Out 2019



FOOD *for* THOUGHT

NEWSLETTER ■ SPRING 2021

Donate online at foodforlanecounty.org/donate



FFLC teaches cooking classes online for all ages

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING GRILLED CHEESE

FFLC's 7th Annual Grilled Cheese Experience broke all past records and supported local restaurants when they really needed it. Funds raised from this event provided 120,000 meals for our neighbors who struggle to put food on the table. Thank you to our generous sponsors, participating restaurants and everyone who purchased a cheesy item in support of this event.

SUPPORT THESE GCE RESTAURANTS
We hope you'll support these Grilled Cheese Experience participating restaurants.

- 16 Tons Café • Agate Alley Bistro • Bacon Nation • Cheese Bliss
- Cornbread Cafe • The Elk Horn Brewery & Cider House • First National Taphouse • Fisherman's Market • Hilltop Bar & Grill • Jasper's Tavern • Lovely • Mandy's Family Restaurant
- NorthWest Burgers • Pig & Turnip • Plank Town Brewing Company • Provisions Market Hall • Provisions South • Rackhouse BBQ • The Sandwich League • Screamin' Jay's Hot Lunch • Southpine Bakery & Café • Wheels Cafe

CONGRATULATIONS
Congratulations to these award winners! Biggest Cheese was awarded to one small and one large restaurant that sold the most sandwiches. People's Choice was awarded to the restaurant that received the most votes on a survey conducted via social media.

Biggest Cheese Large Division [Plank Town Brewing Company](#)
Biggest Cheese Small Division [Bacon Nation](#)
People's Choice [Cheese Bliss](#)

Join our Facebook Group! www.facebook.com/groups/GrilledCheeseExperienceFFLC

WE'LL CELEBRATE CHEFS' NIGHT OUT TOGETHER IN 2022

Chefs' Night Out showcases the world-class skills of Lane County's chefs, winemakers, vintners and brewmasters who delight in sharing their passion with you. In 2020 — for the first time in 30 years — FFLC canceled Chefs' Night because of COVID-19. Large gatherings are still not allowed, so it will be another year before we can gather to savor the flavors of this beloved event.

Chefs' Night Out raises enough money to provide 400,000 meals for people experiencing food insecurity in Lane County — thanks to ticket sales, sponsorships and the generosity of the restaurants and beverage purveyors who donate their talent, time and ingredients to the event.

Reducing hunger is what Chefs' Night Out is all about, which is why it's important that we bring the event back as soon as we can. When Chefs' Night Out 2020 was canceled, many of you chose to donate your tickets back to FFLC. Thank you. Now we hope you'll support these participating Chefs' Night Out restaurants and beverage purveyors as you are able. Dine in as health guidelines permit, take out or buy gift cards. Every meal and drink purchased now strengthens our local restaurant economy and helps improve their ability to gather for Chefs' Night Out next year.

- Agate Alley Bistro • Ax Billy Grill/Downtown Athletic Club • Bates Catering & Holiday Farm Resort • Benton Lane Winery • Billy Mac's Bar & Grill • Bo's Wine Depot • Café Mam • Café Soriah • Cafeto Coffee • Capitello Wines • Carte Blanche Caterers • Chateau Lorane • Claim 52 Kitchen & Brewing • Elegant Elephant Baking Co. • The Excelsior Inn & Restaurant • Falling Sky Brewing • Fisherman's Market & Emerald Smoked Meats • Full City Coffee • Genesis Organic Juice • Heritage Distilling Co. • Hop Valley Brewing • Graduate Eugene • J. Scott Cellars • King Estate Winery & Restaurant • Lion & Owl • Long Timber Brewing Co. • Mac's Custom Catering • Mac's Restaurant & Nightclub • Mad Batters • Mandy's Family Restaurant • Mountain Rose Herbs • Ninkasi Brewing featuring The Better Living Room • Noble Estate Vineyard & Winery • Oakway Catering • Oregon Wine Lab • Plank Town Brewing Company • Provisions Market Hall • RainSong Vineyard • Screamin' Jays Hot Lunch • Sheild Café & Catering • Silvan Ridge Winery • Stanton Vineyard • Sunriver Brewing Company • Swallowtail Spirits • Sweet Cheeks Winery • Sweet Earth Vineyards • Sweet Life Patisserie • Vanilla Jill's • Wildcraft Cider Works • Wild Duck Café & Catering



Chefs' Night Out 2019

FRESH PRODUCE ALL SUMMER LONG

FFLC's Youth Farm serves up fresh, nutritious produce all summer long through its community-supported agriculture (CSA) program. CSA memberships are available now and include 25 weeks of produce, contact-free pick-up, convenient drop sites and sliding-scale membership fees. Boxes come in two sizes, and CSA members who pay with SNAP are eligible for up to \$200 off the cost of their CSA.

Each week you'll receive a box of the freshest produce available, with a balanced mix of 40 crops grown without pesticides or synthetic fertilizers. You'll also receive newsletters with recipes and stories from the Youth Farm.

"I love getting the fresh, locally grown vegetables and fruits throughout the season. Our family looks forward to discovering each week what new produce we receive."

YOUTH FARM BUCKS
Purchase a Youth Farm Bucks gift card for \$90, worth \$100, and shop for produce through the Youth Farm's online produce stand with contact free pick-up on Saturdays, June through October.

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING THE PLANT SALES
It was another record-breaking year for the Spring and Summer Plant Sales. Thank you for supporting these events that support the important work of FFLC's Gardens Program.

Shop our online Farm Stand at farmstand.foodforlanecounty.org
Start your CSA membership today at foodforlanecounty.org/csa



FOLLOW US



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

FOOD For Lane County is an equal opportunity provider.

Editor: Denise Wendt
Design: Amy Renée Design

LEARN TO COOK ONLINE WITH FFLC

In the months since lock-down, FFLC Nutrition Education Program Coordinator Dana Baxter — along with program instructor Lindsey Franger — have transitioned to teaching classes online. They began by partnering with OSU Extension Nutrition Education Program staff.

"In-person classes weren't going to work, so we had to come up with a new way to teach," said Dana. "Through our partnership with OSU, we were able to offer more classes, collaborate on web-friendly teaching resources for all ages and consolidate our marketing efforts. We couldn't have asked for a better team to work with."

Dana and Lindsey have been teaching simple, healthy recipes on Zoom to children and adults in English and Spanish. Classes cover a variety of topics, from basic cooking skills to how to stretch limited food budgets.

"Participants have told us how convenient it is to attend a class without having to find childcare or transportation, which can be huge barriers," said Dana. "We'll offer in-person classes again when we can, but we'll continue to offer online classes. We're able to reach more people online, and that's exciting."

In Lane County, Dana and Lindsey are partnering with 4J School District, Bethel School District, Women Infants and Children, Head Start and Downtown Languages. They also offer stand-alone classes through FFLC's website and social media.

"We're teaching more classes now than we were able to offer in person," said Dana. "This year has given us an opportunity to find creative ways to reach more people in different ways."

Do you want to cook with your kids? Maybe you want to learn how to cook for one? Dana and Lindsey have a class for you. To learn more about FFLC's online cooking classes, go to foodforlanecounty.org/NutritionEd.



Summer Food Program begins June 28

KIDS EAT FREE THIS SUMMER BEGINNING MONDAY, JUNE 28

FFLC will have free sack lunches for children and youth ages 18 and younger Monday through Friday beginning June 28. The program runs through September 3 and will be returning to mostly parks and community centers. For a complete list of summer food meal sites, go to foodforlanecounty.org/SummerFood.

"With COVID restrictions still in place, we want to give people a few options," said Rae VanZandt, FFLC Programs and Services Director. "We will provide grab-and-go meals with breakfast and lunch in the same bag. Parents and caregivers can pick up meals without their children being present. Families can also choose to eat their meals on site in the parks and community spaces. We're hoping that by providing a few different service options, we'll be able to serve as many children and youth as possible."

This summer, FFLC is partnering with Willamalane Parks and Recreation in Springfield and Eugene Fun For All at their summer activity sites.

"We should have 30 to 40 sites serving Eugene, Springfield, Junction City, Coburg, Creswell, WALTERVILLE and Veneta," said Rae.

This is the second year meals will be made from scratch, serving healthy options, purchasing local fruits and vegetables and providing additional vegetarian-friendly options.



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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THANK YOU TO THESE RECENT DRIVES

Thank you, Dominos, for providing free pizza every month for FFLC staff and more pizza for our Dining Room guests — 250 pizzas every month! Our diners love the pizza and look forward to it. Thank you also to these donors for their generous gifts of food and funds since January. You help us keep the food moving!

- Allison Hyder • Amazon Community Center • Bailey Apartments • Bangers & Brews • barre3 Oakway • Berkshire Hathaway • Bi Mart • Broadway Place Apartments • Bruns' Apple Market • Buddha Eye Temple • Cascade Manor • Club Pilates • Columbia Bank • Creekside Village Apartments • Crescent Village Apartments • Dominos • Dr Rob Rust • Elements at Oakway • Equinox Real Estate • Eugene Neighborhood Associations • Firestone • First Congregational United Church of Christ • First United Methodist Church • Footwise • Gordon, Aylworth & Tami, PC • Hearts for Hospice • The Herbal Connection • Hilyard House Apartments • Home2Suites by Hilton • Jasper's Tavern • KVAL Can Do Food Drive • Old Navy • Oregon Medical Group Physical Therapy and Southtowne Medical Clinic • PeaceHealth University Medical Center • Pentagon Federal Credit Union • Phresh Start • Rebekah Lodge • Red Barn Natural Grocery • Rotary Club of Eugene Metropolitan • Sacred Heart Medical Center RiverBend • St. George Greek Orthodox Church • Summerfield Estates • Sun Automotive • Talecris Plasma Resources • Target • The Tennyson at Crescent Village Apartments • Thomas Houston DMD • Thurston High School • TJ's Provisions • Tsunami Books • University of Oregon • Valley River Court Apartments • Walmart • Well Balanced Center for Integrated Health • Westminster Presbyterian Church

LETTER CARRIERS' FOOD DRIVE POSTPONED

The National Association of Letter Carriers' Food Drive, traditionally held in May, has been postponed until November 2021. Please consider making a financial gift online at foodforlanecounty.org/donate, or contact Sarah Reiter at sreiter@foodforlanecounty.org to host your own food drive.

Thank you, Dominos, for the free pizzas!



WAYS TO DONATE

- DONATE ONLINE**
foodforlanecounty.org/COVID19Fund
- MAIL GIFTS**
770 Bailey Hill Road
Eugene, Oregon 97402
- CALL**
(541) 343-2822

ALL GIFTS UP TO \$50,000 MADE BY JULY 31 WILL BE MATCHED

Long-time FFLC donor Marion Sweeney is matching all gifts up to \$50,000 made June 1 through July 31. Thank you, Marion, for your generous gift.

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 at foodforlanecounty.org/donate, or call (541) 343-2822.

MORE WAYS TO GIVE

Scan a \$1, \$5 or \$10 coupon at one of these SCAN A COUPON partners: *Market of Choice, Down to Earth, The Kiva, Friendly Street Market, Capella Market and Sundance Natural Foods.*

EMPTY BOWLS AUCTION IS SEPTEMBER 9

Save the date now for FFLC's 18th Annual Empty Bowls Auction on Thursday, September 9. You will have the option to participate in-person or from home. Watch our Facebook page and website for more details.

LETTER TO READERS



FOOD For Lane County collects food from any and all sources. We work with more than 160 community partners to distribute that food to those in need.

Before COVID, most of our pantries used a shopping style, which means families walk

through the pantry choosing the food items they want.

With COVID, pantries switched over to prepacking food boxes for parking lot and drive-through distributions. This was the safest way to quickly distribute lots of food to lots of people, but it took away people's ability to pick and choose.

Now, as COVID has dragged on, pantries have come up with

some very creative ways to provide people with choices while maintaining COVID safety.

The demand for food at most partner agency pantries leveled off as people received stimulus checks, unemployment benefits, additional food stamp benefits and other forms of temporary government help. While they last, these programs are making a significant positive difference for people in our community living on limited incomes.

Whatever happens next, your continued support ensures that we and our partners will be right here, getting food to those in need until they no longer need our help.



Tom Mulhern, Executive Director



FFLC surveys Lane County to understand hunger

FFLC CONDUCTS SURVEY TO UNDERSTAND HUNGER IN LANE COUNTY

FFLC partners with food pantries throughout Lane County to provide food assistance to 80,000 people each year. We help many more through a variety of food assistance, education and job training programs.

FFLC regularly surveys people who access food assistance programs about a variety of topics related to food insecurity. Survey results inform our efforts to reduce hunger in Lane County and help us better serve the people who rely on us for help.

This spring, we took that survey online because of COVID safety precautions and in an effort to reach as many people as possible.

"FFLC and our food distribution partners track the number of

people who access food assistance, but those numbers don't tell the whole story," said Carrie Copeland, FFLC Education and Programs Director. "This survey helps us understand why people need food assistance and how we can better help our neighbors access food."

"Survey responses will help us understand what needs exist in the community, the experiences of people accessing food assistance, what barriers exist to accessing food, how we can reduce those barriers and more," said Carrie.

We look forward to sharing our survey results with you and using them to help FFLC target programs and partnerships that help our community thrive.