



PUTTING YOUR GIFT TO WORK

For every dollar you donate, we dedicate 92 cents to food distribution and education programs. Every dollar provides up to three meals for our neighbors in need. Now through February 28, your gift goes twice as far thanks to a \$100,000 challenge match from an anonymous donor. Here are a few ways we put your gift to work:

- *\$30 provides meals for a child for one month*
- *\$60 delivers groceries to a senior for a year*
- *\$90 provides one nutrition education class for 8 students*
- *\$120 provides meals for a family of four for one month*
- *\$160 provides dinner for one Dining Room guest for a year*
- *\$250 provides a job trainee with work boots, gloves and apparel*
- *\$500 provides two weeks of wages for a Youth Farmer*

ALL GIFTS MATCHED UP TO \$100,000 THROUGH FEBRUARY 28.

FFLC ENGAGES FOOD RECIPIENTS SO THAT WE CAN BETTER UNDERSTAND THE CHALLENGES THEY FACE

We know that accessing food can sometimes be difficult, and that barriers exist for many people. The best way to understand those challenges is to talk to the people we're serving. What do you think of the quality of the food you are getting at the pantry? Do you have transportation to the pantry? Are you treated with dignity and respect when using an FFLC service?

Surveys, in-person interviews and our Participant Advisory Council (PAC) are just some of the ways we gather information about how we're doing, what we're doing right and what we need to change to do better. People turn to us for help. Their voices matter.

Our PAC is made up of individuals who have participated in one or more of our programs. The group meets by Zoom for 90 minutes once a month for six months, sharing their feedback on their experience accessing food. Participants selected for the council receive a small cash stipend at the end of each meeting to compensate for their time.

The PAC also allows us to share resources on FFLC programs and services, while providing a valuable opportunity for us to learn about the challenges people face — from paying bills and stocking the fridge to feeling stigmatized when asking for help.

By listening to the people we are called to serve — people from diverse backgrounds, experiences, ages, races, abilities, geographic locations and cultures — and incorporating their recommendations, we improve access for all.

The current PAC session runs through June 2022. For information on the next council session, visit foodforlanecounty.org/PAC or call (541) 343-2822.



Now is not the right time to celebrate Chefs' Night Out, but we look forward to when we can gather again. Chefs' Night Out raises money for local hunger relief while celebrating the very best food and drink Lane County has to offer. Watch our website or follow us on Facebook for the latest on Chefs' Night Out and other opportunities to support FFLC.



8TH ANNUAL Grilled Cheese Experience

February 1-28 • 2022



8TH ANNUAL GRILLED CHEESE EXPERIENCE IS FEBRUARY 1-28

FFLC's 8th Annual Grilled Cheese Experience, presented by Kendall Cares, is February 1-28. Support local restaurants while helping to end hunger in Lane County. Thank you to our title sponsor Kendall Cares and to these generous sponsors — Jerry's Home Improvement Center, PacificSource Health Plans, 1120 KPNW, US 101 COUNTRY, KOOL 99.1, 104.7 KDUK, KMTR-16 and QSL Print Communications.

24 RESTAURANTS, 24 CHEESY CHOICES

When you purchase the featured Grilled Cheese Experience item at one of these participating restaurants, they will donate \$2 from every sale. Thanks to a matching grant, all money raised from the event will be doubled.

Agate Alley Bistro • The Axe & Fiddle Public House • Bacon Nation • Cheese Bliss • Cornbread Cafe • Elk Horn Brewery • First National Taphouse • Fisherman's Market Eugene • Fisherman's Market Springfield • Hilltop Bar & Grill • Hop Valley Brewing Co. Eugene • Hop Valley Brewing Co. Springfield • Jack Sprats • Lovely • Mandy's Family Restaurant • NorthWest Burgers • Pig & Turnip • Plank Town Brewing Company • Provisions Market Hall • Provisions South • The Sandwich League • Screamin' Jay's • Southpine Bakery & Café • Wheels Café

#CHEESELUV22

Collect passport stickers to win prizes. Pick up a passport at a participating restaurant, or download a copy from our website at foodforlanecounty.org. Scan the QR code with your phone's camera to be taken directly to our website.

For every 5 stickers, you will be entered to win a package of 10 (ten) \$25 gift certificates to 10 of your favorite participating restaurants — \$250 total! Turn in your passport to a participating restaurant or FFLC, 770 Bailey Hill Road, Eugene, no later than 6pm on Tuesday, March 1.

Post your experience on Instagram with #CheeseLuv22 for a chance to win more prizes. Join our Facebook group for even more ways to win! Go to facebook.com/groups/GrilledCheeseExperienceFFLC.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Now through February 28

All gifts matched up to \$100,000 thanks to a generous anonymous donor

February 1-28

8th 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

More info online at foodforlanecounty.org/events

FOLLOW US



FOOD *for* THOUGHT

■ NEWSLETTER ■ WINTER 2022



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

Editor: Denise Wendt

Design: Amy Renée Design

FFLC'S MOBILE PANTRY PROVIDES A SUSTAINABLE SOLUTION TO HUNGER

When COVID struck in March 2020, we quickly found new and innovative ways to meet the increased demand for food. One way was to take to the road, setting up contact-free Mobile Pantries that provided a safe and flexible way to distribute food where people live.

FFLC's Mobile Pantry now operates weekly, partnering with agencies that are already providing services in their communities — agencies like Eugene Community Court, Centro Latino Americano and Eugene School District 4J. The FFLC truck arrives at each distribution site with about 3,500 pounds of food. Staff and volunteers set up tables and shelves with food to distribute to about 60 households.

"Some of our partners are already providing food," said FFLC Mobile Pantry Coordinator Damien Mojarro. "We help them increase their capacity to serve more people. The Mobile Pantry is designed to temporarily fill a service gap. Our goals are to serve marginalized communities and geographic areas with the greatest need and build more permanent community-led solutions, possibly a permanent pantry in the future."

Since November, FFLC's Mobile Pantry has partnered with Eugene School District 4J, taking its truck to four regions that 4J serves. Vanessa Vasquez is Instruction Operations Coordinator for Eugene School District 4J Wrap-around Services and Family Welcome Center.

"We've had really good feedback from the families we're serving," said Vanessa. "We're currently providing food to about 240 households, and our numbers continue to grow. During the pandemic and with prices of food going up, we're continuing to see people struggling. By taking the Mobile Pantry to their neighborhood, it makes it easier for families to obtain food. I'm just happy that we're able to support them."

FFLC needs volunteers to unload the truck, set up, help clients with in-take and shopping and take down once distribution is over. For information about volunteering, please call (541) 343-2822, or go to volunteer.foodforlanecounty.org.



HELP US MEET A \$100,000 CHALLENGE MATCH BY FEBRUARY 28

Thanks to a generous anonymous donor, all gifts made through February 28 will be matched up to \$100,000. Please help us meet this challenge to provide 300,000 meals for our neighbors experiencing hunger!

Because of the ongoing economic impact of COVID, many of our neighbors are experiencing food insecurity for the first time. Thanks to generous donors like you, we are able to provide needed services to thousands of people who turn to us for help.

Your gift provides more than food. It provides hope. We use your gift to distribute food through more than 150 partner agencies, serve meals at the Dining Room, teach young people how to grow food, help families learn how to prepare healthy meals on a budget, provide job training and more.

Every gift makes a difference. Now your donation goes twice as far. Don't miss this opportunity to double your gift.

Donate safely online at foodforlanecounty.org/donate or call (541) 343-2822.

ALL GIFTS MATCHED UP TO \$100,000 THROUGH FEBRUARY 28.

FFLC NOW OFFERS PLANNED GIVING ASSISTANCE

Planned gifts, also known as deferred or estate gifts, are a powerful way to fight hunger in Lane County. For many donors, a planned gift is their ultimate gift and helps solidify their legacy. The most common type of planned gift is a bequest, made through a donor's will or living trust. Estates receive a tax deduction for 100 percent of the value of the gift.

FFLC is partnering with FreeWill.com to help donors draft a will and make a bequest to charities like FFLC. Donors may choose to have their will reviewed by a licensed attorney thereafter, however it may not be required depending on the details of your estate.

Other common types of planned gifts include beneficiary designations, IRA-qualified charitable deductions (QCDs) and life income gifts like charitable remainder trusts (CRTs) and charitable gift annuities. FFLC partners with Oregon Community Foundation to assist donors who wish to make life income gifts. FFLC Development officers are available to provide advice on planned giving options.

To learn more about how you can make a lasting impact on FFLC's work with a planned gift, contact FFLC Development Director Sally Dougherty at (541) 343-2822 x143 or sallyd@foodforlanecounty.org.



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 FOR STOCKING FOOD PANTRY SHELVES

Community members donated 72,117 pounds of food to the Letter Carriers' Food Drive in November. This included much-needed variety for our food distribution partners and those we serve. Thank you to everyone who donated to this critical drive, and a huge shout out to our letter carriers for all they do to make this drive a success.

Thank you also to everyone who donated food to the 26th Annual Stuff the Bus food drive, including these sponsors — 104.7 KDUK, US 101 Country, Walmart and LTD. This drive brought in 8,515 pounds of non-perishable food.

PAKTECH AND OREGON PACIFIC BANK INVEST IN FFLC CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

Thank you to PakTech and to Oregon Pacific Bank for generously supporting FFLC's Building to Serve capital campaign. Their support will help us strengthen our network of more than 150 partner agencies, mobilize thousands of volunteers and increase our food storage capacity — especially of fresh foods. Thank you for investing in this important project for our community.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS DONATE NUTS AND FRESH PRODUCE TO FFLC

Thank you to the League of Women Voters for purchasing and donating 2,137 pounds of fresh oranges, apples, grapefruit and hazelnuts to FFLC. This is much needed produce for our clients!



WAYS TO DONATE



DONATE ONLINE
foodforlanecounty.org/donate



MAIL GIFTS
770 Bailey Hill Road
Eugene, Oregon 97402



CALL
(541) 343-2822



FFLC IS POWERED BY VOLUNTEERS

We love our volunteers! You get the job done. At the beginning of the pandemic, we told many of you to stay home and stay safe. We relied on a few folks to keep things running, but nowhere near the 4,000+ volunteers on whom we rely to run our programs.

Our volunteer workforce is still not at pre-pandemic numbers, but we were thrilled to welcome more of you back in 2021. We couldn't do what we do without you.

If you are thinking about volunteering, we currently need volunteers for these FFLC programs — Meals on Wheels, Mobile Pantry, day kitchen, Food Rescue Express and GrassRoots Garden. We'd love to talk with you. Call (541) 343-2822, or go to volunteer.foodforlanecounty.org to sign up.

LETTER TO READERS



If you happen to stop by the FFLC office, warehouse and kitchen located at 770 Bailey Hill Road any time during the next few months, you'll find a major renovation and building update in progress.

FFLC drivers and warehouse staff will be working around the installation of a new refrigerator, a new cool room for sorting perishable food and new racking throughout the warehouse, along with the creation of a new volunteer center.

We've cleared both floors of the office area, with some staff members working from home and others working on-site in a temporary mobile office trailer set up in the parking lot. Within the office area, workers will build a second-floor walkway to

a new meeting and training room and create four new enclosed spaces that can be used as offices, one-on-one meeting rooms and a private designated area for staff members who are lactating.

The kitchen area will remain open and in full use by staff and volunteers throughout the renovation, with Meals on Wheels in the morning, meal site food prep in the afternoon and Food Rescue Express (FREX) in the evening.

It is a time of "creative disruption" at FFLC. Thanks to your support, the end result will be greater capacity to pursue our mission of reducing hunger by engaging our community to create access to food.

Tom Mulhern, Executive Director

YOUR SUPPORT DOES AMAZING THINGS

Our capacity to meet the need for food in 2021 was strained by food insecurity rates that remained higher than in pre-pandemic years, especially for children. We don't know what lies ahead in 2022, but we do know that for our neighbors who are facing hunger the new year may feel daunting.

To expand our capacity to serve the thousands of people who turn to our network of partner agencies for help, we launched a \$9.5 million Building to Serve capital campaign in 2017.

Thanks to generous donors like you, we are on track to meet our campaign fundraising goals. We have already begun renovations on our Bailey Hill warehouse. Additionally, we eagerly anticipate purchasing and putting into service a refrigerated mobile pantry truck and welcoming several new partner agencies to help increase our capacity to provide food to our community.

Your ongoing support helps ensure vital FFLC programs continue through 2022. Here are just a few:

- Because of high demand, we relaunched our Mobile Pantry Program, with 24 pop-up events since August and demand for more.
- We are serving more children and youth in rural areas with plans to increase these efforts in 2022.
- We welcomed seven new partner agencies and two new distribution sites to existing partners in 2021. We have plans to add more this year.

To learn more about our Building to Serve capital campaign and to make a gift, visit SupportFFLC.org.

