

## 9TH ANNUAL GRILLED CHEESE EXPERIENCE IS FEBRUARY 1-28

Get your taste buds ready for the 9th Annual Grilled Cheese Experience, February 1–28! This cheesy event is coming to a restaurant near you. Each of the participating restaurants will offer their twist on our favorite comfort food, the grilled cheese sandwich. For each sandwich you purchase, the restaurants will donate \$2 to FFLC.

For added fun, pick up a Grilled Cheese Experience Passport when you purchase your first sandwich, or scan the QR code below to download one at [foodforlanecounty.org](https://foodforlanecounty.org). Use it all month to collect restaurant stickers for a chance to win prizes.

For every 5 stickers you collect, you will be entered into a drawing to win tickets to Chefs' Night Out, FFLC's premier foodie event, April 3 at the Lane Events Center! You can also earn some cheesy prizes based on the number of stickers you collect.

Check out our website for all the 'gouda' details, including a list of participating restaurants and a downloadable passport. Join the Grilled Cheese Experience FFLC Facebook group, and follow us on Instagram for the latest info and postings about Cheesy Royalty sightings to earn you even more stickers!



Join our Facebook group for even more ways to win! [facebook.com/groups/GrilledCheeseExperienceFFLC](https://facebook.com/groups/GrilledCheeseExperienceFFLC)



Post your experience on Instagram for a chance to win more prizes! [#cheeseluv23](https://twitter.com/cheeseluv23)

Scan this for all the cheesy details!

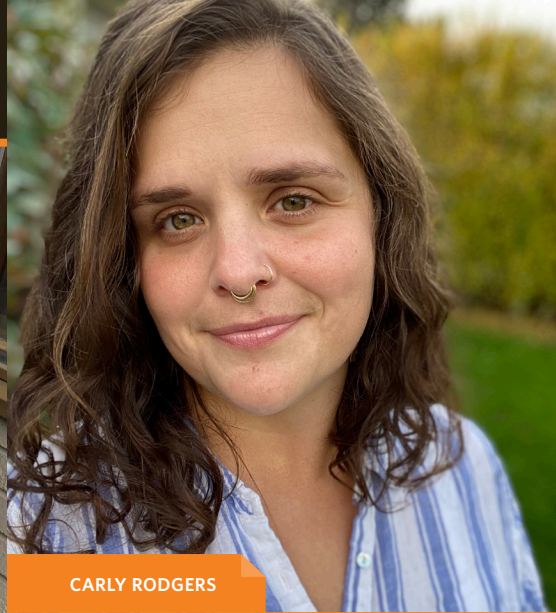


## FFLC LAUNCHES NEW VOLUNTEER WEBSITE

FFLC is powered by volunteers. Our mission doesn't work without you. Each year, nearly 4,000 community members generously donate their time in support of FFLC programs. Thank you!

We recently launched a new volunteer website to make it even easier to volunteer. The move is part of a broader upgrade to technology FFLC currently uses to interact with you — our volunteers and donors. The site offers additional features — including a password-free login.

Go to [mobilize.us/foodforlanecounty](https://mobilize.us/foodforlanecounty) to view FFLC volunteer opportunities and sign up. Signing up to volunteer will create your account. After that you will be able to log in using your email. Questions? Contact us weekdays 9am to 4pm at (541) 343-2822 or any time at [volunteer@foodforlanecounty.org](mailto:volunteer@foodforlanecounty.org).



CARLY RODGERS



NETWORK CHARTER SCHOOL CULINARY ARTS STUDENTS

## NETWORK CHARTER SCHOOL STUDENTS LEARN TO COOK WITH INGREDIENTS FROM FFLC

Culinary arts students at Network Charter School, a free public charter school for students in grades 7 through 12, are learning to cook and sharing what they learn with school classmates and staff. Many meals are made with ingredients from FFLC. Oatmeal bars made with oats from FFLC. A lunch of brown rice, chicken adobo and jicama salad made with ingredients from FFLC. And more!

Of the school's 108 students, 32 are enrolled in the culinary arts program. Carly Rodgers is their instructor. Her students learn everything about running a kitchen and a business in the culinary arts. They prepare home-made breakfasts and lunches for the staff and student body every day.

Carly is happy to partner with FFLC. When she started shopping for food at FFLC, her food purchasing expenses went from \$14,000 to \$3,000. For meals, her classes follow a five-week cycle of regional cuisines — Eastern Asian, Eastern European, Mediterranean and so on. Carly's kitchen expertise helps students turn simple ingredients into healthy meals they can enjoy and replicate at home.

Carly said her students are grateful for the healthy food and the opportunity to learn the essential art of cooking, a skill that will serve them well for many years beyond their time in high school. Her classes also prepare students for their first year at Lane Community College's Culinary Arts and Hospitality Management program and/or a job in the food service industry.

FFLC is thrilled to partner with the Network Charter School culinary arts program. It is an exciting blend of FFLC food, public education and creative leadership.

*Carly's students have also proudly participated in FFLC's Chefs' Night Out since 2018. Tickets to Chefs' Night Out 2023 are on sale now! See this newsletter for more information, or go to [foodforlanecounty.org/cno](https://foodforlanecounty.org/cno) to buy tickets today.*

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**February 1–28**  
9th Annual Grilled Cheese Experience

**February 14**  
Dutch Luv at Lane County Dutch Bros

**February 24**  
*Food Is...* Preview Night at White Lotus Gallery  
Show runs February 27–April 1

**March 10–12**  
Lane County Home & Garden Show Food Drive

**April 3**  
Chefs' Night Out at Lane Events Center

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

## FOLLOW US



### STUFF THE BUS



# FOOD *for* THOUGHT

■ NEWSLETTER ■ WINTER 2023



THE DINING ROOM

## 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

## DINING ROOM OPENS DOORS TO DINERS AND VOLUNTEERS

After almost two and a half years serving meals to go because of the pandemic, the Dining Room resumed inside meal service in October. Staff and volunteers will continue to serve to-go meals for those who prefer that option.

"Since the reopening in October, it has been wonderful to see more guests dining inside each week," said Mary Beth Pattyn, a Dining Room volunteer. "It is so nice to see many faces we know and meet many new guests who are dining for the first time. All the guests express how wonderful it is to be inside in a warm, friendly atmosphere and to be served a delicious meal created by Chef Ryan [Josef-Maier]."

The Dining Room serves free meals inside from noon to 1:45pm Monday through Thursday with to-go service from 2 to 2:45pm.

In April, the Dining Room changed the way it prepares food for diners. Previously, meals were prepared by staff and volunteers in the Bailey Hill kitchen, cooled and then delivered to the Dining Room where they were reheated. Chef Ryan wanted to improve the freshness of the meal offerings at the Dining Room, so he worked with FFLC staff across several departments to make it possible to prepare meals fresh every morning at the Dining Room, using fresh produce from FFLC's GrassRoots Garden as well as ingredients available to all partner agencies.

"It takes the collaboration of many staffers and volunteers to make this new system work," Dining Room Program Manager Josie McCarthy said. "Ryan's goal is to offer meals that one could find in a mid-range to high-end restaurant. The project has built and strengthened relationships across departments, and the diners have been effusive in their praise and appreciation of the quality of the food."



## REMEMBERING LONG-TIME VOLUNTEER BRADLEY HYDER

Bradley Hyder loved to travel and see new places. He loved firetrucks and listening to his police scanner. He was active in Special Olympics and won many medals for swimming, bowling, weightlifting and track. He loved to laugh. He loved family gatherings, chocolate fountains, deviled eggs, cigars and fireworks. And he loved FOOD For Lane County.

“Brad took great pride in working in the kitchen at FOOD For Lane County,” said Allison Hyder, Brad’s sister. “He loved the community, and he loved the fact that he was helping people.”

Brad passed away on November 10 at his sister’s home surrounded by family and friends. He was 63.

He began working at FFLC in 2009. Over the years, he donated over 3,100 hours preparing food for others in our community. He got the job through Senior & Disabled Services, working with a job coach.

“Brad was especially proud that he was entrusted with chopping onions,” Allison said. “For some reason they didn’t make him cry. When I would pick him up, he’d be so excited telling me about the things he chopped and all the people he helped that day. That’s what fueled him.”

“Brad experienced his fair share of bullying for being different,” Allison said. “But through all the times he was treated badly, he would just say, ‘They don’t know what they’re saying. That’s them. It’s not me.’ He would be comforting me because I would be so mad.”

## WHITE LOTUS GALLERY WILL HOST ART SHOW TO BENEFIT FFLC

Join us on Friday, February 24, from 5:30 to 7:30pm at White Lotus Gallery, 767 Willamette St., Eugene, for a preview of *Food Is . . .*, a juried art show to benefit FFLC. The show runs February 27 through April 1. Proceeds from the sale of the artwork benefit FFLC.

Enjoy an early glimpse of the work curated by our panel of judges. Thank you to White Lotus Gallery for generously offering to host the show.

For more information, please contact White Lotus Gallery at [lin@wlotus.com](mailto:lin@wlotus.com) or (541) 345-3276.



### SCAN A COUPON

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### OUR PARTNERS



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Brad lived with his mother until her death in 2013. Before she died, she left Brad in charge of the family.

“He took that job very seriously,” Allison said. “I have three daughters. I’ve got grandkids, and there are lots of nieces and nephews. Uncle Brad was a big part of all their lives. He never passed up an opportunity to tell them how much he loved them.”

“Brad was an exceptional human being,” Allison said. “He had a gentle spirit and a sweet soul. I know how much he loved going to FOOD For Lane County, and I know the community there loved him as well.”

*A one-day drive in Brad’s honor raised 308 pounds of food and \$375 — enough to provide 1,382 meals. Our hearts go out to Brad’s family and friends. We miss him.*

## CREATE YOUR WILL FOR FREE WITH FREEWILL.COM

Nearly 70% of American adults don’t have a will. It’s an essential task to plan for the future and protect the people, pets and causes you care about. To thank you for your support, we’ve partnered with FreeWill.com to make it easy for you to write a will or update the one you have.

You’ll complete the process with an up-to-date plan that protects your loved ones and assets. You also have the option of leaving a gift to FFLC. Since 2017, FreeWill has raised over \$4 billion for nonprofits and has inspired more than 400,000 people to write their wills.

FreeWill can also be used with more complicated estates by generating a list of documented wishes that can be taken to an attorney. In addition, you can plan the beneficiaries for your non-probate assets including 401(k)s, IRAs and other accounts that must be accounted for outside of a will or trust.

Use this free tool to get started writing your will today. Go to [foodforlanecounty.org/FreeWill](https://foodforlanecounty.org/FreeWill).

## THANK YOU TO THESE RECENT DRIVES

FFLC relies on food and fund donations from all sources. Thank you to these recent drives for keeping the food moving to our neighbors in need.

5th Street Haunted Market • 104.7 KDUK • A-1 Auto Glass • Alesong Brewing & Blending  
Bekins/Cross Town Movers • Benevity Community Impact • Cascade Chorus • First  
Congregational Church of Christ • Kendall Auto Group • KVAL Take A Bite Out Of Hunger  
Lane Department of Transportation • League of Women Voters • Level32 Racing • Letter  
Carriers’ Food Drive • Lube It USA • Stuff the Bus • Temple Beth Israel • Turkey Trot •  
US 101.5 COUNTRY • US Foods CHEF’S STORE • Walmart

### TURKEY TROT



## WAYS TO DONATE



**DONATE ONLINE**  
[foodforlanecounty.org/donate](https://foodforlanecounty.org/donate)



**MAIL GIFTS**  
770 Bailey Hill Road  
Eugene, Oregon 97402



**CALL**  
(541) 343-2822

### FILL YOUR PANTRY EVENT



## DONATE TODAY

FFLC has an exceptional score of 97% from Charity Navigator, earning it a Four-Star rating. Charity Navigator ranks hundreds of thousands of nonprofits throughout the United States, helping donors like you make informed decisions about which causes to support. Charity Navigator ratings are based on four areas — impact and results, accountability and finance, culture and community, and leadership and adaptability.

When it comes to supporting causes, we know you have choices. We want you to know how much we value your support, and that we are good stewards of your money. For every dollar you donate we are able to provide up to 3 meals. Also, 92% of your donation goes directly to hunger relief in Lane County.

More info at [charitynavigator.org](https://charitynavigator.org). Go to [foodforlanecounty.org/donate](https://foodforlanecounty.org/donate) or call (541) 343-2822 to donate today.

## A MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Of the many things that inspire me about the work of FOOD For Lane County, I am particularly inspired by all the different groups and organizations that get involved in food and fund drives.

Food and fund drives are locally-organized efforts to collect donated food for those in need.

Many food and fund drives also give people the opportunity to make a financial donation in lieu of or in addition to a food donation. Hence the “food and fund drive” label. However, the emphasis in these drives is clearly on food.

Elsewhere in this newsletter you’ll find a list of recent drives. Some are large and high profile — such as the Letter Carriers’ Food Drive, which collected just over 70,000 pounds of food! Others are reliable markers on our annual community calendar — including Stuff the Bus, KVAL Take a Bite Out of Hunger and the Turkey Trot. Still others are very local to a specific group

or business, such as the recent drives completed by A-1 Auto Glass, Cascade Chorus and Temple Beth Israel among others.

### FOOD DRIVES MORE IMPORTANT THAN EVER

Local food drives are more important than ever right now. Our inventory levels are at a three-year low, the result of more people seeking food assistance at a time when there is less food available from the USDA than during the height of the pandemic.

All donated food comes to our warehouse where it is sorted by a group of dedicated and enthusiastic volunteers. Then it is sent out to those in need through our network of more than 160 partner organizations.

It takes food, volunteers, willing partners and financial donors to make this happen. Thank you for being part of this inspiring and important collaboration.

Sincerely,

Tom Mulhern, Executive Director



## TICKETS ON SALE NOW FOR CHEFS' NIGHT OUT 2023, APRIL 3 AT THE LANE EVENTS CENTER

Join us Monday, April 3, at the spacious and stair-free Lane Events Center for Chefs’ Night Out 2023! Enjoy delicious food and drink from more than 50 of Lane County’s finest restaurants, caterers, wineries, breweries and distilleries. There’s lots of free parking, too!

Because of rising costs, we are raising ticket prices for the first time in many years. Thanks to your ticket purchase and our generous sponsors, proceeds from Chefs’ Night Out go directly to our mission of creating access to food. For every dollar we raise, FOOD For Lane County can provide 3 meals!

We look forward to delivering another great event and can’t wait to see you there!

### TICKETS ON SALE NOW

Scan the QR code below to purchase tickets, or go to [foodforlanecounty.org/cno](https://foodforlanecounty.org/cno).

#### Lane Events Center

796 W. 13th Ave., Eugene  
Monday, April 3 • 6:30pm-9pm

#### General Admission

6:30pm Entrance • \$85

#### VIP Early Entrance

only 250 available!  
5:30pm Entrance • \$125

Scan this to  
get your tickets!

