

# Chefs' Night Out

2023

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

Join us at the Lane Events Center on Monday, April 3, for Chefs' Night Out, presented by King Estate Winery. Enjoy delicious food and drink from more than 70 of Lane County's finest restaurants, caterers, wineries, breweries and distilleries.

General Admission tickets are \$85. Purchase VIP Early Entrance tickets for \$125 (while they last) to get into the event an hour earlier than General Admission ticket holders. Thanks to your ticket purchase and our generous sponsors, proceeds from Chefs' Night Out go directly to our mission of creating access to food. We look forward to delivering another great event and can't wait to see you there!

### TICKETS ON SALE NOW

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



#### Lane Events Center

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

#### VIP Early Entrance (while they last)

5:30pm Entrance • \$125

#### General Admission

6:30pm Entrance • \$85

## EXHIBIT RUNS THROUGH APRIL 1 AT WHITE LOTUS GALLERY

A juried art exhibit is open now through April 1 at White Lotus Gallery in Eugene. A portion of the proceeds from the sale of each piece of art benefits FFLC. The show features 39 pieces of art by 28 artists.

"We're honored to present *Food Is*," said gallery owner Hue-Ping Lin. "We hope you'll join us to recognize the important work that FOOD For Lane County does for our community and to appreciate the abundance of creativity that surrounds us."

At an opening reception on February 24, artists, donors and community members came together to support FFLC. Several artists said it was an honor to be included in the show.

"It's always been a goal to show in this gallery," said one artist. "Thank you [to White Lotus Gallery] for sponsoring this event and making FOOD For Lane County much more visible to the

community in a beautiful way."

"Thank you very much for this opportunity," said another artist. "To sell work is really exciting, but to sell work that you know is going to a cause is priceless."

FFLC appreciates all the work and talent that has gone into the creation of this show. Many thanks to White Lotus Gallery. The gallery is open Tuesday through Sunday. The art can also be viewed at [www.wlotus.com/food-is](https://www.wlotus.com/food-is).

### WHITE LOTUS GALLERY "FOOD IS" EXHIBIT



### EMERALD VILLAGE

## AN INNOVATIVE APPROACH TO AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Many people in Lane County spend 30% to 50% of their limited incomes on housing. That leaves little money left for groceries. A lack of affordable housing is one reason people turn to FFLC for help with food.

SquareOne Villages is a local nonprofit that creates self-managed communities of low-cost tiny homes for people in need of housing. Emerald Village in Eugene is one of those projects. The site opened in 2018 with 22 units on just over an acre. Each unique home includes sleeping and living areas, a kitchenette and a bathroom. Emerald Village provides safe and stable homes to very low-income people as well as a voice in shaping how their housing is operated and managed.

We met Chris there in January. One of the first residents, he pays \$341 a month. That includes rent, utilities and a parking space. Before Emerald Village, Chris lived in Opportunity Village — another SquareOne project. Before that he lived in his car.

"They say you're only one paycheck away from needing help. I was less than a paycheck away," Chris said. "There is a need for something like this. We're motivated to take care of it. We're responsible for it. You could put a bunch of people in tents and bring them rations every day, and you could call it a village. But it's really a village when it's just like a neighborhood."

Emerald Village is one of more than 150 community partners that uses food from FFLC to support its mission. FFLC Partner Agency Services Manager Shannon Dennehy works closely with residents to make sure they get the food and other supplies they need. The site receives about 1,500 pounds of food and other supplies from FFLC each month.

"We love to see programs flourish when they are run by the residents," Shannon said. "It's really in the spirit of FFLC's mission to engage the community in creating access to food. We want to see people choose the foods that are meaningful and nourishing to them."

*To learn more about the community partners we work with to distribute food and to make a gift today, go to [www.foodforlanecounty.org](https://www.foodforlanecounty.org).*

## UPCOMING EVENTS

*April 3*

Chefs' Night Out at Lane Events Center

*April 15*

Spring Plant Sale at the Youth Farm

*April 29*

UO Football Spring Scrimmage Game at Autzen

*May 3*

KVAL Can Do Food Drive

*May 5*

Empty Bowls Sale at The Market Alley  
at 5th Street Public Market

*May 13*

Letter Carriers' Food Drive

*May 20*

Summer Plant Sale at the Youth Farm

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

## FOLLOW US



### DAY KITCHEN VOLUNTEERS



# FOOD *for* THOUGHT

■ NEWSLETTER ■ SPRING 2023



TYLER VAUGHN

### 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

## JOB MEANS A BETTER LIFE FOR THIS YOUNG DAD AND HIS DAUGHTERS

Tyler Vaughn is a success story. The 29-year-old father of two came to FFLC when his DHS caseworker recommended he apply for our warehouse training program. Tyler had worked in a warehouse before, and his caseworker thought it would be a good fit. It was.

He completed the 12-week training program with ease, learning new skills on top of what he already knew from his previous job working at a warehouse in El Paso, Texas. Near the end of the program, a full-time position in FFLC's warehouse became available. He applied, and in April 2022 he was hired.

Tyler and his daughters, ages eight and nine, had recently moved into a three-bedroom apartment. Thanks to steady work, stable housing for this young family is no longer out of reach.

Tyler is a young father, working full-time and taking care of his girls. We're proud of him. But more than that, he's proud of himself.

"I feel like I've come a long way from where I was," he said. "I wasn't in the greatest place because of not having housing. I had a couple family members pass away. Just a lot of rough stuff hit within the family. Not having housing on top of that made it that much more stressful. It's been rough, but I've been hanging in there."

"The whole crew at FOOD For Lane County has made me feel so welcome and worth being here. Like I was actually helping," Tyler said. "One of the reasons why I wanted to stay is because of the people. And then we're doing a good thing too, so that's just the cherry on the top."



## THANK YOU TO EUGENE DISC GOLF CLUB ICE BOWL

In February, more than a hundred disc golfers braved chilly but dry weather at Dexter Park Disc Golf Course for this year's Eugene Disc Golf Club Ice Bowl.

"We put 109 players on 22 holes with crazy shots like the blindfold drive and playing a whole fairway with a mini," said Event Coordinator Karen Roybal. "We allowed mulligans and honored card partner requests for the best and most hilarious experience for the players."

The event raised a record \$16,000 for FFLC, which included a matching gift of \$8,000 from an anonymous donor and a \$500 match from a local business. Thank you for this generous donation!



## EMPTY BOWLS SALE NEW LOCATION: MARKET ALLEY



The Empty Bowls Sale is Friday, May 5, at The Market Alley at 5th Street Public Market, 550 Pearl St, Eugene. You'll find an assortment of clay, glass, metal, wood and fiber bowls all donated by local artists. Prices begin at \$10 per bowl, and proceeds benefit FFLC's hunger relief efforts in Lane County.

We are now accepting donations of bowls. Please wrap your bowls, put them in a box with a lid and take them to FFLC, 770 Bailey Hill Road, Eugene, Monday through Friday from 9am to 4pm. The submission deadline is May 1. Questions? Please contact FFLC Events Coordinator Dawn Marie Woodward at (541) 343-2822 or [dmwoodward@foodforlanecounty.org](mailto:dmwoodward@foodforlanecounty.org).

## THE RISING COST OF FOOD MEANS THAT \$1 NOW PROVIDES 2 MEALS

Inflation has a direct impact on the people who turn to us for help. When food-insecure homes must spend more on food, they have less money for other basic necessities — like rent, utilities and transportation.

That's when FFLC steps in to fill the gap, and we can only do that with your continued financial support. Because of rising food costs, more people are seeking food assistance from FFLC and its countywide network. Food is often the only item in a household budget with any wiggle room.

FFLC is also experiencing the impact of inflation. In addition to higher food costs, we are seeing increased costs of collecting, storing and distributing food. We are also purchasing select food items to supplement the free food donations that we typically collect and distribute. For all those reasons, \$1 now provides two meals.

With the help of generous donors and volunteers like you, FFLC and its community partners will respond to the growing demand for food assistance in a compassionate and cost-effective manner. Thank you for your continued support.

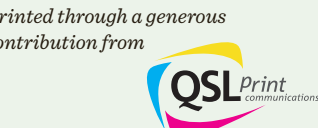


### SCAN A COUPON

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.

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Friendly Street Market • Capella Market  
Sundance Natural Foods

### OUR PARTNERS



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## FEED YOUR RADIO! FEED A FAMILY!

Thank you to KLCC and Essex General Construction. On February 22, for every pledge to KLCC, Essex General Construction contributed \$50 to FFLC. Despite pausing the one-day fundraiser to cover breaking news at Lane Community College, 95% of the 10,000 meal goal was raised. Understanding that vital news coverage is a priority, Essex General Construction generously committed to contributing the full 10,000 meals to FFLC. Thank you for these two generous community partners.

"We send our sincere thanks to all the KLCC listeners who contributed to our recent fund drive match with FOOD For Lane County," said Essex General Construction Vice President Dan Skotte. "Together we do great things. We support quality local media and feed our neighbors in need."

"The emphatic support of KLCC listeners and readers for FOOD For Lane County's vital work warms the heart," said KLCC General Manager Jim Rondeau. "Building community connections and raising awareness of important issues like food insecurity are central to KLCC's mission. We're grateful for this ongoing partnership."

## 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.

Bigfoot Beverages • Central Presbyterian Church • Coach Gina GIVE campaign  
Dari Mart • DOWL LLC • Dutch Bros • Eugene Disc Golf Club • Eugene  
Neighborhood Associations • Hop Valley Brewing • Ninkasi Brewing Company Phi  
Gamma Delta Fraternity • University of Oregon Athletics • University of Oregon  
State Employees • US Foods • Valley River Center • The Village School

### DUTCH LUV



## 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



ST. VINCENT de PAUL SERVICE STATION

## VOLUNTEER!

We have a new volunteer site! To view FFLC volunteer opportunities and sign up, go to [mobilize.us/foodforlanecounty](https://mobilize.us/foodforlanecounty). 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 anytime at [volunteer@foodforlanecounty.org](mailto:volunteer@foodforlanecounty.org).

## FFLC'S SUMMER LUNCH PROGRAM BEGINS IN JUNE

Kids and teens 18 and younger eat free all summer long! Meals are served Monday through Friday at parks and community centers. Watch our website and Facebook page for more information, including a start date and a list of meal sites.

## A MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Food insecurity is a stubborn reality in Lane County, one that is rooted in poverty. Too many of our neighbors struggle to afford the food they need to survive, let alone thrive.

Acting in isolation, you and I can't do a whole lot about food insecurity. But acting together, we can make a real difference. That

is the essence of FOOD For Lane County, people of good will acting together to make things happen.

You can see that in this edition's cover story about Tyler Vaughn and his success through the FFLC Job Training program. You can see it in the beautiful artwork now on display at the White Lotus gallery, with talented local artists using their gifts to help others. And many of you saw it — and tasted it — in the wide selection of Grilled Cheese Experience sandwiches available from local restaurants during the month of February.

Every day, I am inspired by the creative, thoughtful, sometimes whimsical and always compassionate ways that you and others engage in the work of FOOD For Lane County.

*Tom Mulhern*

Tom Mulhern  
Executive Director

*P.S. As you may know, I'll be retiring in August. FFLC is a special organization, and it has been my honor to be a steward for this unique community institution during my four years here. Our Board of Directors has appointed a search committee, and we've launched the search process for the next Executive Director. If you know someone who might be a good fit, please encourage them to consider this opportunity to be inspired every day while making a real difference in our community.*

## GRILLED CHEESE EXPERIENCE RAISES \$25,000 FOR LOCAL HUNGER RELIEF

Thank you for helping us raise \$25,000 in February. Restaurants and food trucks once again offered their creative twist on the grilled cheese sandwich and donated \$2 to FFLC for each sandwich purchased.

In addition to the restaurants' support all month long, our title sponsor Kendall Cares hosted a pop-up with O'my! Mini Donuts on February 18 at Kendall Ford. Taylor (pictured) was participating in his second Grilled Cheese Experience, and we asked him what he likes about the event.

"I like going to a lot of restaurants that I might not have gone to otherwise," he said. "I like that I'm giving back a little bit since I'm helping out FOOD For Lane County, too. And I love grilled cheese, so I'll take any excuse to eat some more."

Thank you to everyone who joined our GCE Facebook Group, now more than 2,700 members strong! Thank you for sharing your experience on Instagram and Facebook. And thank you to title sponsor Kendall Cares and these in-kind sponsors.

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KMTR 16 • KOOL 99.1  
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Thank you to these participating restaurants and food trucks.

The 99 Grill • Agate Alley Bistro • Axe & Fiddle Public House • Buddy's Diner • Cheese Bliss • Cornbread Café • Elk Horn Brewery • Falling Sky Brewpub • Falling Sky Pourhouse • First National Taphouse • Fisherman's Market Eugene and Springfield • Hilltop Bar & Grill • Hop Valley Brewing Eugene and Springfield • Jack Sprats Restaurant • Jazzy Sammies • Lovely • Mandy's Family Restaurant • NorthWest Burgers Annex • Pig & Turnip • Plank Town Brewing Co. • Provisions Market Hall • Provisions South • Red Barn Deli • Southpine Bakery & Café • Wheels Café @ Kendall Auto

