

LDS CHURCH DONATES 80,000 POUNDS OF FOOD

In August, FFLC received two semi-truck loads of nonperishable food items from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Since March 2020, the LDS Church has donated 270,655 pounds of food to FFLC.

“A mission of the LDS Church is to help those in need,” LDS Communications Director Dave Willis said. “We know this food donation will help fulfill that mission. We want to connect with organizations like FFLC that know what they’re doing. My hope is that this encourages more people to donate.”

“This is high-quality, shelf-stable food,” FFLC Food Resource Coordinator Kara Smith said. “It’s everything we want people to have. We’re so grateful to the LDS Church for this generous donation and their ongoing support.”



KARA SMITH AND DAVE WILLIS

VOLUNTEER! Go to foodforlanecounty.org/volunteer to learn more!

SUMMER FOOD PROGRAM: IN SESSION WHEN SCHOOL IS OUT

A Summer Food Program site supervisor told us about one day this summer when a foster mother with six children in tow came to her site for lunch. “The littlest one came up to me and said, ‘I’m so glad you’re here. Lunches here are so good.’”

When you support programs like Summer Food, you are making a difference in a child’s life. Filling this meal gap is critical for households with children. Parents and guardians tell us that not having to worry about that one meal is so helpful. It’s one less meal they have to buy.

“This is my favorite childhood memory, to have lunch at this park,” one mom said while her children ate lunch. “I’m glad to see the location back.”

This summer our amazing team of staff and volunteers prepared and served 29,272 lunches at 32 meal sites! Volunteers worked 205 shifts for a total of 603 hours! More than 500 children’s books were donated by SMART Reading and area libraries and given to children.

We are so grateful for the continued support we receive from donors like you for our Summer Food Program, which provides free meals to children and teens during the summer when school meals are not available.



SUMMER FOOD PROGRAM



29,272 LUNCHES
32 MEAL SITES



SAMM COBISKEY

FFLC'S MOBILE PANTRY HELPS FILL A MEAL GAP FOR FAMILIES IN NEED

FFLC created the Mobile Pantry Program to provide food to underserved communities and fill service gaps in FFLC’s food distribution network. Folding tables are stacked high with bread, rice, canned vegetables, masa, dry beans, nuts, cereal and cooking oil. Coolers are filled with milk, eggs and cheese. Boxes of fresh produce are carefully stacked.

Samm Cobiskey coordinates the program along with Zaydhy Calderon. Samm is a fan of making it easy to access food. He’s also no stranger to need.

“I grew up going to food pantries,” Samm said. “There was a lot of stigma around that. It’s hard to admit that you need help, so we do everything we can to make people feel welcome. We want people to know that the help is here and the food is here if you need it.”

“This helps the community a lot, especially people who are hungry and don’t receive any other benefits,” said one young man who was there with his mother. “Sometimes we don’t have enough to cover the food expenses, so we come here. We live close by, so this is really convenient.”

“Every day I don’t have to go to the store saves us money,” said a mom who was there with her three sons — ages 10, 14 and 15. With the end of Covid-related benefits in March and high rates of inflation, the cost of food has become a harsh burden for many families.

“We’ve seen a steady increase in the number of people coming to the mobile pantry,” Samm said. The pantry serves 40 to 100 families at every stop, and that number is going up. “Food is expensive. We can save people \$30 on groceries every time they come to the pantry. This is a good way to get food into people’s homes and save them some money.”

In addition to scheduled pantries — at Centro Latino Americano, Shasta Middle School, Sheldon Community Center and Cottage Grove — Samm and Zaydhy do pop-up pantries wherever they see a need. That might be Oakridge, Fall Creek, Springfield or Junction City. “It’s a chance to provide food temporarily where it’s needed,” Samm said.

Go to tinyurl.com/FFLCMobilePantry for upcoming distributions.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Stuff the Bus, November 3 and 4
Walmart on Olympic and Green Acres

KVAL Take a Bite Out of Hunger, November 7
Bimart on 18th and Chambers

13th Annual Fill Your Pantry, November 12
Lane Events Agriculture Pavilion

Letter Carriers Food Drive, November 18
Leave a donation by your mailbox

Turkey Trot, November 23
Alton Baker Park

For more info, visit foodforlanecounty.org/events,
email info@foodforlanecounty.org or call
(541) 343-2822.

FOLLOW US



FOOD DRIVES



FOOD *for* THOUGHT

FALL 2023 NEWSLETTER



WALT JOHNSON

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

REMEMBERING LONG-TIME FRIEND AND FARMER WALT JOHNSON

Established in 1915, Johnson Vegetable Farm in Eugene is one of the oldest family-owned agricultural farms in Lane County. Walt Johnson inherited the farm from his grandparents and proudly carried on the family tradition until his passing over Labor Day Weekend. He was 76.

“Walt was one of the first farmers to donate farm-fresh produce to FOOD For Lane County,” said FFLC Food Resource Coordinator Kara Smith. “We met with him in May to discuss what he could plant next season to support FFLC. He spoke with great pride about helping his friends and neighbors have access to fresh produce. He also said that he journaled almost every day — musings about life that he learned from farming. He was definitely a wise and kind philosopher-farmer.”

Walt was a dedicated and generous friend to FFLC. Since 2011, he donated almost 280,000 pounds of produce — corn, cucumbers, zucchini, cabbage, cauliflower, squash and pumpkins. In 2023 alone he donated more than 21,000 pounds of produce before the farm’s busiest harvest time. At the onset of the pandemic, Walt helped us secure frozen berries and other early-season produce to distribute when supply chains were highly unpredictable.

“In 2014, he worked to reinstate and increase the Oregon Crop Donation Tax Credit to help small farms offset costs associated with donating crops,” said Kara. “This was just another way Walt worked to fight hunger in Lane County and Oregon. It was a priority for him, and we are so grateful for his compassion, his hard work and his expertise. I feel truly blessed that I was able to work with Walt. He reminds me that giving is an act of gratitude and abundance. Our hearts go out to Walt’s family and friends.”

YOU KEEP OUR GARDENS GROWING

Thank you for supporting the essential work of our Gardens Program. Our pantries and neighbors in need would miss out on this fresh produce without your help.

Annually, FFLC’s Youth Farm grows 130,000 pounds of produce to support food security in Lane County. About half of the food grown is distributed through FFLC agency partners. The remainder is sold to raise revenue to support the Youth Farm through Community-Supported Agriculture (CSA) memberships, an on-site farmstand and plant sales.

“In 2022, the Youth Farm raised \$200,000 in produce and plant sales from products grown on our 5-acre site in North Springfield,” said Youth Farm Supervisor Ted Purdy. “This season we hired a hard-working and inspiring crew of 15 Youth Farmers who have helped feed our neighbors while building skills and community.”

Visit the 13th Annual Fill Your Pantry event on Sunday, November

12, from noon to 4pm at the Lane Events Center Agriculture Pavilion. Stop by the Youth Farm Stand to stock up on beautiful garlic, shallots, carrots and more.

Hosted by Willamette Farm and Food Coalition, this unique bulk food buying event is an opportunity to buy staple and storage crops in bulk directly from area farmers. Buying and storing local crops is a tangible way you can support our small farms and ensure that you eat local all winter. SNAP/EBT benefits are accepted at the event.

Go to tinyurl.com/2023FillYourPantry for more info.



HONORING DIVERSITY INSIDE AND BEYOND FFLC

As the recently hired equity and inclusion manager at FFLC, I have had the privilege to engage with FFLC staff and volunteers in a variety of programs and projects.

I am inspired by the diversity of individuals across this organization as we strive to meet the hunger needs of our community with a high level of personal ethics, innovation, care, wisdom and willingness to do what it takes to carry out our mission.

Honoring diversity is an important part of the work we do. We strive to have an organization made up of people who represent the same communities we serve. When program participants see themselves reflected in our staff and volunteers, there is

a natural sense of kinship, trust and connection that arises. This can create a sense of safety and understanding for underserved communities who most frequently experience food insecurity.

I am happy to be a part of FFLC. I look forward to continued expansion under the guidance of our new executive director Carolyn Stein, who holds diversity, equity and inclusion as a cornerstone of the work we do.

*Diana Nadeau
FFLC Equity and Inclusion Manager*



THANK YOU, DOMINOS

For the past two years, Amanda has coordinated a team from Eugene-area Dominos that donates and delivers more than 250 personal pizzas once a month to FFLC’s Dining Room. Our Dining Room guests love it and look forward to this tasty treat.

“The Eugene franchise recently changed hands,” said Dining Room Manager Josie McCarthy. “When Amanda and her team met with her new boss, she insisted this monthly donation continue to happen. And thankfully, the new boss agreed!”

We are so grateful for Amanda and Dominos for bringing FFLC a slice of joy every month.



THE LETTER CARRIERS FOOD DRIVE IS SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 18

The Letter Carriers Drives in May and November are our largest drives of the year, helping stock pantry shelves all year long with much-needed food. The best part is they come to you! Just leave a donation of nonperishable food by your mail box the morning of Saturday, November 18. Your letter carrier or an FFLC volunteer will pick it up.



WAYS TO DONATE

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



A MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



My first few weeks at FFLC have been a whirlwind! I visited the Dining Room, spent time at the Youth Farm and GrassRoots Garden and met with many of our community partner agencies. I am learning so much! At the center of FFLC is the people who come together with open hearts and generous spirits to make it all happen.

Farm hosted employees from Burley, leadership from the City of Springfield and others. I even talked with the librarian from the Springfield Public Library while she sorted produce! Together, these volunteers tackled numerous projects that support the work of FOOD For Lane County.

Working with a dedicated and compassionate team of volunteers and staff is a privilege. To all those who support us, your commitment to our community’s well-being is deeply appreciated. I look forward to many more opportunities for collaboration and service. Thank you for making a difference in the lives of our neighbors in need.

Sincerely,

Carolyn Stein, Executive Director

DRIVES KEEP THE FOOD MOVING

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

Cross Town Movers • Deployed Logix • East West Tea Company • Glow Yoga • Greater Eugene Area Riders • KVAL CanDo • Lane County Fair • Lane County Home Improvement Show • Lane County Realtors • National Association of Letter Carriers • Oregon Community Credit Union • Westminster Presbyterian Church

2022 ANNUAL REPORT AVAILABLE ONLINE

FFLC’s 2022 Annual Report is available online. Thanks to generous donors like you, FFLC continues to play a critical role in our community.

In the report you’ll find information about our countywide network of more than 150 food distribution partners, FFLC programs and services, 2022 financials and our recently completed capital campaign that doubled our capacity to receive and distribute food — thanks to you!

With your support, FFLC and its partners will continue to respond with care and compassion to reduce hunger in Lane County.

Visit tinyurl.com/fflc2022annualreport to view 2022 Annual Report.

EMPTY BOWLS AUCTION MARKS 20 YEARS OF LOCAL HUNGER RELIEF

FFLC’s 20th Annual Empty Bowls Dinner & Auction raised an incredible \$330,000. We’re so grateful for your generosity. The event was held on September 8 at the Lane Events Center.

Thank you to Empty Bowls Auction Chairs Justin and Audra King and to our many donors, guests and volunteers. Thank you also to these generous sponsors:

King Estate • Café Yumm! • Fred Meyer Jewelers PacificSource Health Plans • Moss Adams • Summit Bank Kaiser Permanente • Northwest Community Credit Union Bo’s Wine Depot • CBT Nuggets • PeaceHealth Roseburg Forest Products

Go to tinyurl.com/FFLCAuctionPhotos to view 2023 Empty Bowls Dinner & Auction photos.



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