Busting Myths About Hunger

There are common myths about hunger in America: It doesn’t exist. Most people struggling with hunger are homeless or out of work. Most people would be fine if they just worked harder.

The reality is much different. For 1 in 6 Americans — and 1 in 3 people in Lane County — hunger is a real struggle. More than 80% of all SNAP benefits go to households with a child, senior or person with a disability. Many households have at least one working adult.

To dispel myths and engage students in a conversation about hunger, FFLC staff held a Hunger Banquet at Pleasant Hill High School in March as part of the school’s annual Impact Festival.

Students were randomly assigned an income level — lower, middle and upper — and each level received a different meal. Croissants, fresh fruit and sparkling cider for upper income; bagels, cream cheese and orange juice for middle income; and plain white bread for lower income.

“The place you sit and the meal you eat are determined by the luck of the draw, just as in real life some of us are born into relative prosperity and others into poverty,” said FFLC Programs and Services Director Karen Edmonds. “Educating people about hunger is an important role a food bank performs in the community. The more we know, the more we are motivated to help end it.”

“The Hunger Banquet was my favorite workshop,” said one student later. “I learned that there are a lot of people in poverty in Oregon.”

Learn more about the causes of hunger at foodforlanecounty.org/hunger. See photos from the Hunger Banquet at foodforlanecounty.org/hungerbanquet.

A Day at the Fair

The Lane County Fair is July 23-27. Admission is FREE on Sunday 11am to 1pm with a donation of 3 or more cans of food per person. Gates will be entry only from 11am to 1pm, so come early and enjoy the fair all day. More information at atthefair.com/Daily-specials.
Our Vision
To eliminate hunger in Lane County

Our Mission
To alleviate hunger by creating 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.

Printed with a generous contribution by:

Empty Bowls Sale

More than 1,000 bowls starting at $10 made by local artists
Friday, May 2
4- 6:30pm
The Dining Room
570 W 5th Ave Eugene
A benefit for
FOOD for Lane County

Success! Crop Tax Credit Becomes Law

Governor Kitzhaber signed the Crop Donation Tax Credit (SB 1541) into law in April. Reinstating and increasing this credit is a small but important step toward bringing more fresh food into food banks across the state. It could not have happened without the coordinated efforts of farmers, FFLC staff, anti-hunger advocates and messages sent to elected officials that we can do more to fight hunger.

“Our work doesn’t stop here,” said FFLC Advocacy Relations Coordinator Kara Smith. “We will continue to do outreach on SB 1541 to farmers so that we can ensure it is fully utilized and hopefully encourage more farmers who are on the fence about donating to do so.”

For more information, contact Kara Smith at (541) 343.2822 or ksmith@foodforlanecounty.org.

80 Acres and a Plan

When 80 acres outside Junction City became available for farming, the opportunity was too good to pass up. FFLC is leasing the land for $1 a year for 20 years from Oregon Department of Corrections.

FFLC has contracted with Junction City farmer Tom Hunton to grow 60 acres of oats, not currently grown in the valley. The oats will be processed and then packaged into family-sized bags for distribution to local families and individuals facing hunger.

“I want to thank our board for really getting behind this project,” said Deb McGeorge, FFLC food resource manager. “I truly believe that this will continue to open more doors for us in filling the food gap and will lend itself to more funding opportunities and new food partners in the future.”

For more on what FFLC is doing to increase its intentional food production, go to foodforlanecounty.org/intentionalfood.

80 Acres and a Plan (continued)

Of the 8 million pounds of food FFLC distributes annually, 72% is provided through emergency food pantries.

Most people access a pantry only 4 times a year.

Our first three products — lentil and barley soup mix, pinto bean flakes and apple sauce — have been very well received. Intentional production is part of our strategic plan. We’ve been successful with what we’ve done so far, and we’re excited to see where this latest project takes us.

We need volunteers from June through August to pack lunches and help at meal sites throughout the county. For information on volunteering, call Sheyla Norte at (541) 343.2822 or email volunteer@foodforlanecounty.org.

Letter to Readers

When we were approached by the Department of Corrections to farm land outside Junction City that they own but are not using we felt like this was a natural next step for us.

We are contracting with Junction City farmer Tom Hunton who will plant 60 acres in oats. We are grateful for the Hunton family, who believe in what we are doing and believe in communities that feed themselves.

This is an exciting opportunity for us for many reasons. It’s an opportunity to support the local economy, become more self-sustaining, source more food locally, bring more healthy food into our system and provide more nutritious food for the people we serve.

Our first three products — lentil and barley soup mix, pinto bean flakes and apple sauce — have been very well received. Intentional production is part of our strategic plan. We’ve been successful with what we’ve done so far, and we’re excited to see where this latest project takes us.

I hope you’ll watch future newsletters as well as our Facebook page and website for more news on this ongoing project.

Beverlee Hughes
Executive Director
Will Swim for Food

Ashley Streig raised over $1,000 for FFLC by organizing an open water swim in the Pacific Ocean off the coast of southern California. Ashley is a PhD candidate at the University of Oregon in neotectonics and paleoseismology, and (yeah, we’re gonna say it) she rocks! Thank you, Ashley!

Kelly Middle School Food Drive

 Hats off to Kelly Middle Schoolers who this spring collected an amazing 2,399 pounds of food. Students reached out to a local Grocery Outlet and set up a shopping spree. All the food they could gather in 60 seconds was donated to the drive. You’re awesome! 

Most Wanted Foods

Healthy foods always top our wish list. Consider donating these nonperishable foods to the Letter Carriers Food Drive this Saturday. For more upcoming drives, go to foodforlanecounty.org and click on Events.

Canned meats (tuna, chicken, salmon, canned beef) • Low-sugar fruit, dried fruit, jams and jellies, unsweetened apple sauce • Canned and dried beans (pinto, navy, kidney, refried) • Canned stew, chili, hearty soups and broth • Bar-sliced macaroni and cheese • Pasta, rice, cereal, com meal • Cooking oil and olive oil • Canned tomato products (whole, paste, spaghetti sauce) • Peanut butter • Ethnic spices and sauces (mole, enchilada sauce, cumin, chilies)

Friends Team Up to Fight Hunger

Our volunteers make alleviating hunger in Lane County possible. Here we shine the spotlight on two incredible people — Marilyn Jorgensen and René Speer. Together, they have more than 700 hours to FFLC gardens, the Dining Room, Chefs’ Night Out and more. Thank you!

After retiring in 2009, Marilyn moved to Eugene to be with her children and grandchildren. It was during this time of personal transition that she saw great need in the community due to the economic downturn. Her daughter introduced her to the GrassRoots Garden as “a great place to get to know people.” Later that year, Marilyn met René at the garden.

“I kept hoping to find someone like René, and I finally did!” said Marilyn. “She is extremely capable and has really good people skills. René is the kind of person you want on your team. She has an amazing amount of energy and a can-do attitude!”

“The gardens are wonderful, but if gardening isn’t your thing there are so many other volunteer opportunities at FFLC,” said René. “The warehouse and the kitchen and the Dining Room are always looking for help. FFLC is a great way to give back to the community.”

To volunteer, contact Sheryl Norte at (541) 343-2822 or volunteer@foodforlanecounty.org. For a list of volunteer opportunities, go to foodforlanecounty.org/volunteer.

Chefs’ Night Out 2014: A Night to Remember

Thank you to sponsors, participating purveyors, volunteers and guests for making Chefs’ Night Out a huge success. Thanks to the generosity of these sponsors, 100% of ticket proceeds go directly to hunger relief.

Title Sponsor: King Estate Winery and Restaurant
Premier Sponsors: MacDonald Miller Financial Solutions, Jerry’s Home Improvement Center, The West Family
Gold Fork Sponsors: PakTech, PacificSource Health Plans, QSL Print Communications, KVAL, 13
Silver Spoon Sponsors: Essex General Construction, Siuslaw Bank, Sysco, Reynolds Electric, Timber Products Company, PeaceHealth

For more info: (541) 343-2822, gardens@foodforlanecounty.org, foodforlanecounty.org/gardens
Cornerstone and FFLC: Working Together to Meet Basic Needs

Cornerstone Community Housing (formerly Metro Affordable Housing) provides affordable housing and support services for people on limited incomes.

“We’ve worked closely with FFLC for 15 years to deliver on-site programs that help bridge the gap in the monthly food budgets,” said Richard Herman, Cornerstone executive director.

FFLC and Cornerstone believe people should be able to afford housing and still have enough money for groceries and other basic necessities.

In 2013 alone, FFLC and Cornerstone provided Cornerstone residents with 90,000 pounds of food through FFLC’s Extra Helping Program and 4,500 meals through FFLC’s Summer Lunch Program.

“By partnering with FFLC we are bringing nutritious food to the people who need it most,” said Herman. “Together we are building community within our food to the people who need it most,” said Herman. “Together we are building community within our

“In March we celebrated six companies that are helping us make a difference in Lane County. Their generous and ongoing donations of food and funds expand FFLC’s capacity to help our neighbors in need.”

Six Local Businesses Honored

In March we celebrated six companies that are helping us make a difference in Lane County. Their generous and ongoing donations of food and funds expand FFLC’s capacity to help our neighbors in need. Each Business has an accumulated donation of $50,000 or $50,000 pounds of food. Thank you!

Down to Earth: FFLC supporter since 1999. Down to Earth supports FFLC gardens with potting soil, fertilizer, mulch, tools, gardening gloves, SCAN-a-Coupon and 5% of store proceeds one day every year.

Franz Bakery: donated more than 300,000 pounds of rolls, buns and sliced multigrain bread in 2013 alone. Because of the quantity and quality of baked goods donated by Franz, FFLC is able to share product with regional food banks around Oregon.

Jerry’s Home Improvement Center: has supported FFLC for 20 years, including 16 years sponsoring Chef’s Night Out. During that time, the event has raised $1.3 million for local hunger relief.

NeuroSpine Institute: has sponsored FFLC’s annual Empty Bowls Dinner & Auction for seven years, including five years as title sponsor. Thanks to their generous support, the auction has raised $2.5 million for hunger relief.

Siuslaw Bank: has supported FFLC for more than 15 years, donating to the capital campaign, underwriting the building loan and making it possible to serve more neighbors in need. Siuslaw Bank also sponsors Chef’s Night Out and the Empty Bowls Dinner & Auction.

Umpqua Bank: has supported FFLC for over a decade, sponsoring Chef’s Night Out and volunteering 1,664 hours since 2010. In 2012 they received FFLC’s Justice of Eating Award for the Children’s Weekend Snack Pack program, which provides 35,000 snack packs to local children in need.

Become a Monthly Donor Today!

Donating monthly is one of the most effective ways to support FFLC. Regular monthly donations help donors balance their annual giving throughout the year and provide FFLC with a steady source of financial support. Donate $84 or more a month and join FFLC’s Leadership Circle. Complete and mail this form using the enclosed envelope, call (541) 343.2822 or sign up online at foodforlanecounty.org/monthlydonor.

Yes! Sign me up as a NEW Monthly Donor.

I am currently a Monthly Donor. Please increase my monthly gift to $__________.

Name( ): _____________________________________________

Address: _________________________________________

City State Zip

Phone(s): _______  _______  _______

I prefer to make automatic monthly donations (please select one of the following):

☒ Check with first monthly gift enclosed  ☒ My blank voided check is attached

Credit Card: VISA MasterCard

Card #: __________ Exp Date: __________

I authorize FFLC to transfer the following amount on the ____ 3rd or ____ 8th of each month. This authorization will remain in effect until I notify FFLC, at any time, that I wish to change my contribution.

$10 $25 $50 $75 $100 $500 $84* $250 $500 $1,000 $5,000

*Donate $84 or more a month and become a member of FFLC’s Leadership Circle.

Yes! I wish to change my contribution.

Signature (required): ______________________________ Date: ______________

☒ You may acknowledge my gifts in FFLC publications.

You Keep the Food Moving

Food and fund drives engage the community in the mission of alleviating hunger. Thank you to the following for raising $500 or more for collecting 500 or more pounds of food.

Curves • Dutch Bros. • Edgewood School • Eugene Christian School • Express Employment Professionals • First Congregational United Church of Christ • Gilham Elementary School • Hummingbird Wholesale • Kelly Middle School • KVAL Cam Do! • Lane County Home Show • Life Technologies • Pentagon Federal Credit Union • Roto Rooter Plumbing and Drain Services • Safeway • Sheldon High School • United Way of Lane County

Thank you to the generous employees of these state agencies: Bureau of Labor and Industries • Department of Environmental Quality • Department of Human Services • Oregon Employment Department • Oregon Student Access Commission • State Police Crime Lab • University of Oregon • WorkSource Lane • Oregon Employment Department

FOOD FOR LANCe COUNTy NEWSLETTER

FOOD FOR LANCe COUNTy NEWSLETTER
Upcoming Events

May 2  Empty Bowls Sale at the Dining Room
May 3  UO Spring Scrimmage Food Drive at Autzen
May 10 Letter Carriers Food Drive
May 17 Summer Plant Sale at the Youth Farm
June 5  Farm Stand opens at Sacred Heart at RiverBend
June 7  Farm Stand opens at the Youth Farm
Sept 10 FFLC Partner Agency Conference
Sept 27 Empty Bowls Dinner & Auction at FFLC

More info and events online: foodforlanecounty.org/events

Letter Carrier’s Food Drive is May 10

This is an all important drive for us! The food we collect in May carries us through summer. So please give generously. Leave a donation of nonperishable food (no glass containers please) by your mail box early on the morning of Saturday, May 10. Your letter carrier will pick it up! See page 4 of this newsletter for a list of our most wanted foods!

Follow Us Online!

facebook.com/foodforlanecounty
twitter.com/foodforLC  youtube.com/food4lanecounty