FFLC Expands Senior Grocery Program

Thanks to grants from The Chamber Family Foundation, The Grainger Foundation, Valley River Center and contributions from individual donors and the Federal Commodity Supplemental Food Program, FFLC is now providing more seniors with healthy, shelf-stable food once a month.

FFLC Founding Trustee Marion Sweeney gave a major contribution to assist in leveraging grant support for this program.

“I identify with this population more and more,” said Sweeney. “It’s important for us to prepare for the increasing need.”

“We’re now serving 345 seniors,” said program coordinator Roz Fox. “We’re adding sites in Thurston and Florence and serving folks who have been waiting to get on a home delivery route.”

“I look forward to this every month,” said Janet, who lives in a small apartment in Eugene. “Food is the most important thing for anybody who is low-income. I appreciate FOOD for Lane County so much.”

“I’ve gotten to know these folks pretty well,” said Roz, who has managed the program since its inception four years ago. “They look forward to seeing me every month. They tell me about their medical problems. Sometimes they’re going through loss. One of my clients recently lost her mom. I think it was helpful to spend time with her talking about her mom and her loss.”

“Most of these folks are living on social security checks that are very small,” added Roz. “A lot of them have to make hard choices like, ‘Am I going to the grocery store or am I going to pay my electric bill?’ I think they’re getting a lot of their nutrients from the food we’re giving them. If they didn’t have this program they would probably be eating empty calories that don’t contain the vitamins and nutrients they need to stay healthy.”

Volunteers are needed to make home deliveries once a month. For more information, please contact Roz Fox at (541) 343.2822 x352 or rfox@foodforlanecounty.org.

Our Favorite Party

25th Annual Chefs’ Night Out
Tuesday, April 7 • 6:30pm – 9pm
Hult Center for the Performing Arts

Tickets on sale now!
(541) 682.5000 • hultcenter.org
Hult Center Box Office

General Admission $65
After February 28th $75
VIP Early Entrance $90

Join us April 7 for Chefs’ Night Out. All proceeds benefit hunger relief in Lane County. All food and beverages are generously donated by an amazing cast of participating restaurants, caterers, wineries and breweries. See photos from last year’s event at foodforlanecounty.org/cno.

DONATE ONLINE
foodforlanecounty.org/donate

MAIL YOUR GIFT
770 Bailey Hill Rd
Eugene, OR 97402

CALL
(541) 343.2822
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:

I thank the people who give us this food box. Thank you very much. It helps us a lot.
Albertina
Letter to Readers

We meet news of an economic recovery with restrained enthusiasm. The unemployment rate in Lane County has improved. There are more jobs, and some people are going back to work. But for many of the people FFLC serves — including working families, people with disabilities and seniors living on fixed incomes — that recovery is slow in coming or simply does not apply.

In January, Governor Kitzhaber met with Oregon business leaders and urged them to remember those left behind by the recovery.

"It's not that we aren't creating well-paying jobs," the governor said. "We are. We're just not creating them fast enough to replace the jobs we lost during the Great Recession."

Despite economic recovery, many of the people FFLC serves are working one or more part-time jobs, cobbling together paychecks and resources that sometimes include food stamps and a food box just to get through the month. Poverty, unemployment and hunger rates remain especially high in rural Lane County communities that have limited access to fresh and affordable foods.

Lane County is slowly moving out of the recession. For many of the people we serve, FFLC is a critical part of that recovery.

Adopt an Apple Tree Today

FFLC has partnered with the new Oregon State Hospital in Junction City to plant 200 apple trees along the hospital’s front walkway. With a $50 donation, you can adopt one of these trees today!

You’ll receive updates on your tree, as well invitations to exclusive harvest events. The apples from your tree will provide a beautiful, healthy and sustainable food source for families and individuals facing hunger in Lane County for years to come.

It’s easy to adopt your apple tree. On your mobile device, simply text “apple” to 41444, visit us online at foodforlanecounty.org or call Darrel Kau at (541) 343.2822 ext. 343.

We need to raise $10,000 in order to plant our apple trees. Only 200 available, so adopt your tree today!

Shelter from the Storm

Winter nights can be bitter cold, especially for those without shelter. In November, FFLC Dining Room staff and volunteers collected more than 200 pairs of new and gently used boots for their guests who needed them. Boots and a new pair of socks were distributed to 200 diners the day before Thanksgiving. Volunteers measured each person’s foot, ensuring a proper fit. The first-time event was a huge success, according to FFLC Family Dinner Program Manager Josie McCarthy.

Since 2008, the Egan Warming Center, operated by St. Vincent de Paul, has ensured that homeless people in Lane County have shelter during extreme cold weather. Egan Warming Centers also provide food. In its first week of activation this winter, FFLC donated over 4,000 pounds of food to the Egan Warming Centers.
Give the Gift of Food Anytime

Make a donation to FFLC and choose from several full-color cards. Send a friend or loved one a special card honoring them with a gift of food for someone in need. Purchase cards online at foodforlanecounty.org/tributecards, by phone at (541) 343.2822 or in person at 770 Bailey Hill Road, Eugene, OR 97402. Suggested minimum $10 donation per card. For more information, contact Hadee Sabzalian at (541) 343.2822 x355 or hsabzalian@foodforlanecounty.org.

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youtube.com/food4lane county

Remembering Chong Mi Zahner

Long-time supporter Joel Zahner, owner of Only the Best Truck Broker, made his 2014 gift in memory of his wife Chong Mi who recently lost her battle with cancer. In 2011, Joel and Chong Mi were recognized for their financial support of FFLC at a ceremony honoring local companies who had given $50,000 or more in support of local hunger relief. May the memory of Chong Mi be a keepsake of time that lives forever in the heart.

Making a Local Difference

Thank you to these community organizations and associations for their generous financial support this past year.

Central Lutheran Church • Central Presbyterian Church • Church World Service • Coburg United Methodist Church • Emerald Empire Kiwanis Club • Emerald Empire Sports Car Club • Emmaus Lutheran Church • Eugene Active 20-30 Club • Eugene Association of REALTORS® • Eugene Delta Rotary Club • Eugene Disc Golf Club • Eugene Glass School • First Congregational Church • United Church of Christ • Gateway Church • Graduate Teaching Fellows Federation • Oregon Food Bank • Oregon Project • Share Our Strength • South Eugene High School Community 101 • Springfield Board of REALTORS® • Springfield Lutheran Church • Women’sGift

It’s a profound experience being on the street. I’ve been there. It was about how do I survive? You get the gear, you get the sleeping bag, you figure out where the food is. Winter is hard. I was underneath the bridge for a while. It was like a wind tunnel. That’s the biggest obstacle, getting out of the weather, especially when it rains, and everyone chasing you off because they don’t want you there.

Now I have more than what I need. I share it if I have it. I wake up every morning saying how blessed I am. I’m trying to give back as much as I can because I’m in a better place than a lot of people I know.

So many people count on the Dining Room. I would hate to see how 300 people who are used to being here find someplace else.

Vicki, Dining Room guest

“
So Generous! WhiteWave and SO Delicious Dairy Free Donate $25,000

Springfield-based SO Delicious Dairy Free, maker of coconut milk frozen desserts and other yummy treats, has been donating product to FFLC for more than a decade.

“As a local food and beverage company, it is our profound pleasure to support FFLC with this donation,” said Chuck Marcy, president and CEO. The local company was recently purchased by Denver-based WhiteWave, a food and beverage company with brands that include Horizon Organics, Silk, Earthbound Farm, International Delight, Land O’ Lakes and others. Before moving to Lane County, Marcy served on the board of the food bank in Denver. “FFLC works tirelessly to eliminate hunger while putting food on the tables for many of our neighbors who need assistance. We are truly honored to be able to support these efforts.” The gift will provide 75,000 meals to a diverse population of children, families, seniors and single adults in Lane County living on limited incomes.

Driving Hunger Out of Lane County

There were so many food and fund drives this holiday season. Thank you! We want to give a special shout out to Albertsons for donating $10,000. Thank you to Springfield Board of REALTORS® and Eugene REALTORS® Association for sponsoring the 3rd Annual Gary Rasmussen Golf Tournament, which raised $10,316. Thank you to Walmart, LTD and Bicoastal Media for once again supporting Stuff the Bus, now in its 20th year. The drive raised 5,341 pounds of food. Some 1,300 people braved the rain for the 5th Annual Turkey Trot on Thanksgiving Day, sponsored by Level 32 Racing, raising another $7,453. Thank you to our newest partner Natural Grocers for donating 5% of one day’s sales, 100 fresh turkeys and other nonperishable food items. Thank you to Albertsons and Safeway for donating Turkey Bucks and Holiday Food Bags. The 2014 KVAL Can Do Holiday Edition food drive collected 3,770 pounds of food and over $700. Thank you to Café Yumm! for donating $5,000 as part of an online match.

Want to organize a drive? Contact Brad Bassi at bbassi@foodforlanecounty.org or (541) 343.2822.

Drives Put the FUN in Fundraising

Thank you to the following for raising more than $500 or 500 pounds of food since our last newsletter.

Agnès Stewart Middle School • Alaska Airlines/Horizon Air • Albertsons • Barre3 • Bicoastal Media • Body of Light Family Chiropractic • Bulk Handling Systems • Cash and Carry • CenturyLink • Coastal Farm and Ranch • Columbia Distributing • CrossFit Intensify • Danish Brotherhood • Dr. Molly Vendetti DMD • Eugene Association of REALTORS® • Eugene BottleDrop • Eugene Fire Department • Fifth Street Public Market • Fred Meyer • Gary Rasmussen Golf Tournament • GloryBee Foods • Kendall Auto Group • KEZI • KVAL • Lane County Home Show • Lane County Human Resource Association • Lane Rural Fire Rescue • Lane Transit District • Level 32 Racing • Levi Strauss • Lube It USA • Natural Grocers • Oak Patch Gifts • Oakway Fitness Center • Oregon Community Credit Union • Oregon Medical Group • Overtime Tavern • PetSmart • Prairie Mountain School • Republican Women Central Lane • Rife’s Home Furniture • Roosevelt Middle School • Rosen Aviation • Royal Caribbean • Safeway • SELCO • South Eugene High School • Springfield College of Beauty • Springfield Board of REALTORS® • Springfield Utility Board • Staszak Physical Therapy • Team Eugene Aquatics • Temple Beth Isreal • Thurston Middle School • UO School of Law • Ugliest Sweater Run • Valley River Center • Village School • Walmart • Western Beverage Company • Willamette High School • YMCA
Major Food Donors
Thank you to these local companies for their generous donations of food this past year.

Adessi Farms • Albertsons • Attune Foods • Bi-Mart • Big Lots • BigFoot Beverages • Bimbo Bakeries • Cash and Carry • Ciao Bella Gelato • Coconut Bliss • Corner Market/Sweet Leaf Organics • Costco • Grove Community Church • East West Tea Company • Emerald Fruit and Produce Co. • The Epic Source Food Company • Franz Bakery • Fred Meyer • Frito-Lay • Georgia Pacific Halsey • GloryBee Foods • Groundwork Organics • Harry & David • Hole in the Wall Barbecue • Hummingbird Wholesale • Inland Empire Foods • Johnson Vegetable Farm • King Estate Winery • Laloo’s Goat’s Milk Ice Cream • Let it Grow Farm • Lochmead Dairy • Lone Pine Farms • Market of Choice • McDonald Wholesale Co. • Me & Moore Produce • Natural Grocers • Odwalla Juice • Off the Waffle • Oregon Ice Cream • Organically Grown Company • PakTech • Pepperidge Farm • Sacred Heart RiverBend & University • Sam Lefore Fruit Farms • Sizzle Pie • SnoTemp • SO Delicious Dairy Free • Spring Valley Dairy • Springfield Creamery • Target • ThistleDown Farm • Toby’s Family Foods • Track Town Pizza • True Value • Umpqua Dairy Products • University of Oregon • Walmart • Wildtime Foods • WinCo Foods Springfield • Winter Green Farm

facebook.com/foodforlanecounty

We have 5,196 fans on Facebook and growing! Like us on Facebook to find out what we’re doing to ease hunger in Lane County. Get the latest and greatest on food and fund drives, upcoming events, hunger in the news, photos, video and more. There’s a little something for everyone. Check it out!

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(s): ____________________________
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 or ☐ 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 ☐ 18th 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 ☐ $84* ☐ Other $__________
*Donate $84 or more a month and become a member of FFLC’s Leadership Circle.

Signature (required): ____________________________ Date: ____________________________
☐ You may acknowledge my gifts in FFLC publications.

I thought it was really cool how volunteering can have such a big impact on people’s lives.

Hannah

Contact FFLC Volunteer Coordinator Sheyla Norte at volunteer@foodforlanecounty.org or (541) 343.2822 for a list of volunteer opportunities, or go to foodforlanecounty.org/volunteer.
A Real Place to Volunteer

I can’t quite remember [why I started volunteering], but it had something to do with saving the world. That quickly got brought into perspective. I thought that I could make big changes in the world and discovered it was really just about participating in this culture of people sitting down together and eating and being civilized and enjoying each other’s company. I get surprised a lot at how difficult conditions can be for people and how graceful and friendly and loving they can be in the face of that difficulty. The interactions you experience here are very authentic and very real. I’ve been here about three years. I hope to be here a long time.”

Jim Ball, Dining Room volunteer

Support Programs that Feed Kids

The Southern Education Foundation released a new report revealing that 51% of students across the country, in pre-kindergarten through 12th grades last year were eligible for free and reduced-price lunches. In Oregon, 49% of children attending public schools qualified for the program. The school lunch program is a rough proxy for poverty, but the explosion in the number of needy children in the nation’s public classrooms is a recent phenomenon that has been gaining more and more attention among educators and our public officials. Please contact your members of Congress and urge them to do all they can to protect and expand essential programs that help hungry children through the Child Nutrition Reauthorization bill.

Senator Jeff Merkley • (541) 465-6750 • merkley.senate.gov
Senator Ron Wyden • (541) 431-0229 • wyd.en.senate.gov
U.S. Representative Peter DeFazio • (541) 465-6732 • defazio.house.gov

We Miss You, Joyce

We remember Joyce Klopp, who passed away this fall. Our thoughts are with her family.

Joyce was a long-time cook for FFLC’s Summer Food Program. She cooked for the Springfield School District, including more than 15 years as assistant cafeteria manager at Springfield High School.

“She was such a happy person, and she made everybody laugh. She had the most hilarious laugh,” said Karen Derieux, who worked alongside Joyce in FFLC’s Summer Food Program.

“Joyce loved working for FOOD for Lane County. We all do,” added Karen. “I look forward to it every year. Feeding thousands of kids is such an amazing thing.”

We will miss you, Joyce. You were part of the family.

We will miss you, Joyce

A Real Place to Volunteer

SCAN a Coupon Today

FFLC’s SCAN-a-Coupon program is one of the easiest ways to give where you live. Please SCAN today at one of these local merchants.

Market of Choice • Down to Earth • The Kiva • Friendly Street Market • Gray’s Garden Centers • Ray’s Food Place • Cook’s Pots & Tabletops • Capella Market • Sundance Natural Foods

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Upcoming Events

February 1-28  Governor’s State Employees Food Drive
February 14  Dutch Luv Food Drive at all Dutch Bros locations
March 12-15  Lane County Home and Garden Show Food Drive at the Lane Events Center
April 7  Chefs’ Night Out at the Hult Center
April 11  Spring Plant Sale at The GrassRoots Garden
May 9  National Association of Letter Carriers Food Drive
May 16  Summer Plant Sale at The Youth Farm
June 5  Empty Bowls Sale at The Dining Room

More info and events online: foodforlanecounty.org/events

25th Annual Chefs’ Night Out
April 7, 2015 • 6:30pm-9pm
Hult Center for the Performing Arts

Tickets on sale now!
Hult Center Box Office • (541) 682.5000 • www.hultcenter.org
General Admission: $65 • After February 28th: $75 • VIP Early Entrance: $90

Follow Us Online!

Donate online: foodforlanecounty.org/donate