THE FACE OF HUNGER
77% of survey respondents prepare meals at home every day. 17% own their own home. 60% live in extreme poverty. 35% are single. 79% are white. 33% are households with 65 or older. 18% of households have one or more member who is a veteran. 3% are households with children. 37% of these homes have 65 or older. 63% had a student with a 2-year college diploma. 11% of people who benefit from food boxes are households with 65 or older. 3% of people say that when they add the food they get from the pantry to what they already have, they’re making a difference in the lives of the people they serve.

EMPLOYMENT
When asked what would help improve their situation, 25% of respondents say employment. Affordably affordable housing (20%) and higher wages (15%) are important.

ALBERTINA
Albertina and her husband immigrated to the United States from Guatemala. The trip was long, hard and expensive. Some days they went without food. There were days they didn’t have enough to eat. Albertina works every day in the mountainous coffee fields. She makes little hand, and for every 100 pounds she gets $10. From the little she is earning, $10 comes out to pay for his ride. We try to make it work. I have two children in Guatemala and I need to send them money. I have to pay my rent and electricity. The money goes very soon. Sometimes it just isn’t enough, so the food helps us a lot. Thank you so much for that box, truly. Because in our country they don’t trust like this, giving us a box of food. That you know what getting a food box made possible, survey respondents reported the following:

INSURANCE
Hunger is a public health problem. It is a high cost of living, difficult to find housing, and a lack of sufficient education. Contributing factors include a lack of stable, low-wage jobs, a high cost of living, difficulty finding affordable housing and a lack of sufficient public and private assistance to meet needs.

ALEX
Alex is one of our Food Box recipients and a candidate for high school graduation. After I get out of high school, I would like to study it. I love farming. I love watching the vegetables grow. You plant them, and then three weeks later you see this beautiful tomato or broccoli and it’s like, ‘Look at that! I grew that!’ I get to come out here and grow vegetables for people who really need them and don’t have access to good food. I think agriculture is a really interesting field. What it’s like to go home and not have food on the shelves. Many of them are dealing with a mental illness at a young age. Most of them have fewer opportunities, fewer advantages, and have less support for that age. At the farm, they have the opportunity to give back and part of the farm solution, and they are empowered by that opportunity. I love being able to watch the vegetables grow. I love farmers. And I learned a lot about the people they serve, and then later now I pass these beautiful tomato and broccoli and it’s like, ‘Look at that! I grew that!’ I get to come outside and grow vegetables for people who really need them and don’t have access to good food. I think agriculture is a really interesting field. After I get out of high school, I would like to study it. The Oregon Health Plan serves as a safety net for many of the people we serve. They are able to receive a tomato start to plant at home.

BUDGET
53% of respondents are working, or hold a disability that prevents them from working.

Our partners
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HUNGER IN LANE COUNTY

LARRY

“...struggled during the third week of every month.”

Larry was doing okay. Working, paying bills, getting by. Then one night everything changed. A motorcycle accident broke most of his face, punctured both lungs and scattered his ribs. He spent a month in a hospital and three more weeks in a recovery facility. And spent a great deal of time in a hospital. He tried to go back to work after the accident, but it didn’t work out. So, with a new face, he was able to get a new job as a sanitation worker for a limited income senior. He receives a small check from Social Security. $489 in food stamps and a once monthly food box through FOOD for Lane County’s Senior Grocery Program (formerly Home Delivered). “I’m pretty strapped by the third week of every month. When my food stamp run arrives, organizing the food on tables and putting food into cloth grocery bags that residents then take to their individual apartments."

VICKI

“I don’t know how you’d be if you were poor.”

You get the sleeping bag. You figure out where the food is.”

Like to be homeless. “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 thrive, to stay healthy and to do well in school.

HEALTH

Better nutrition can combat serious health issues such as diabetes and high blood pressure, but survey respondents, 34% of survey respondents say that because of food insecurity at least one member of their family has at least one health concern. Meals that are nutritious keep people healthy and help people to function at their best. lane. It boosts our energy, our strength, our ability to think, our ability to perform.

FOOD FOR LANE COUNTY

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VISION

To eliminate hunger in Lane County

MISSION

To alleviate hunger by creating access to food and empower our community to address hunger through teaching and motivating families and individuals to prepare and package food for distribution through their church, synagogue or mosque, local social service agencies or programs, and through public awareness, education and community advocacy.

FOOD FOR LANE COUNTY is an equal opportunity employer.

GENEVIEVE

“My daughter gave me a reason to succeed. I did this for her.”

Rob suffered a traumatic brain injury while serving with his Oregon Army National Guard unit in Iraq. Upon his return to the United States, he was also diagnosed with post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). The diagnoses qualified him for full disability but left him feeling useless. “I kind of shut myself away. I didn’t feel like I matter to society anymore. “I didn’t feel like I mattered to society anymore.”

LETTY

“Some people have never been in a pantry before. It takes everything they have to walk through that door.”

How to make the most of their dollars at the grocery store. “Now when I get apples from the pantry, I make apple butter and apple rings. I use cream and sugars more than ever before. I use less sugar and more spices. I learned to manage money. My family loves my chicken fried steak. It’s cheap. I bake a lot, use organic in the winter to heat the house. It’s cheaper than turning the heat on.”

LENTY

“Some people have never been in a pantry before. It takes everything they have to walk through that door.”

Like many food box recipients, Letty also volunteers at the local food pantry because she wants to give back. Letty knows she can’t ask for help for “Some people have never been in a pantry before. Some people’s lives have been changed by a little bit of help, depending on how they walk through that door. My life is different. I’m just like them. We’re all human.”

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