

# Food donations necessary for Eugene families

■ The Oregon Food Bank and Food for Lane County organize food drives to combat the hunger problem

By Darren Freeman  
Oregon Daily Emerald

Despite the booming national economy, hunger hasn't lost its grip on Oregon.

In fact, the U.S. Department of Agriculture announced this year that Oregon has the highest hunger per capita ratio in the nation.

And food banks are dwindling. "We are experiencing across the state a sharp increase in the number of people requesting food," Oregon Food Bank spokeswoman Amy Stork said.

Up 15 percent since 1998, 464,000 people in Oregon and Washington have received emergency food boxes from the Oregon Food Bank Network over the past year.

With the influx of holiday food donations at an end, the Oregon Food Bank, in cooperation with community relief organizations, is trying to meet the increased need with this year's Governor's Food Drive. The drive is an effort targeting state employees, including University faculty and staff.

Twenty-four food collection barrels are scattered throughout the University and will remain on campus until March 1. Food for Lane County will distribute all food collected to Lane County residents.

The Governor's Food Drive has done well at the University in the past. Last year, faculty, staff and students donated 3,843 pounds of food and \$8,775. For every dollar, Food for Lane County buys about six pounds of food.

Governmental Affairs Office Assistant Jackie Carpentier, who is helping organize the food drive, attributes past years' successes to the generosity of University workers.

"It helps that the food goes to Lane County families, and people can see where it's all going," Carpentier said. "You're helping your neighbors and coworkers."

Deb McGeorge, food solicitor for Food for Lane County, said she hopes this year's donations match or even exceed past years' collections.

"We could sure use it," McGeorge said. "The majority of our food comes in during the holidays. People forget that hunger is year-round. It doesn't go away."

Many of Food for Lane County's newest food recipients are workers laid off from the state's struggling logging and plywood industries, McGeorge said.

"We have a lot of loggers, a lot of farmers and a lot of people working for low wages," McGeorge said.

"They just don't have the skills needed to get other jobs and they're suffering."

Other factors affecting hunger in Oregon include high housing costs, jobs made obsolete by new technology, an increasing population and reductions in state relief programs, Stork said.

"There are a lot of reasons people ask for food, but the major trend we see is working people without enough money for rent and food," Stork said.

Stork asks foods donated to be

## Governor's Food Drive 2000

Donations should be healthy and have long shelf lives.

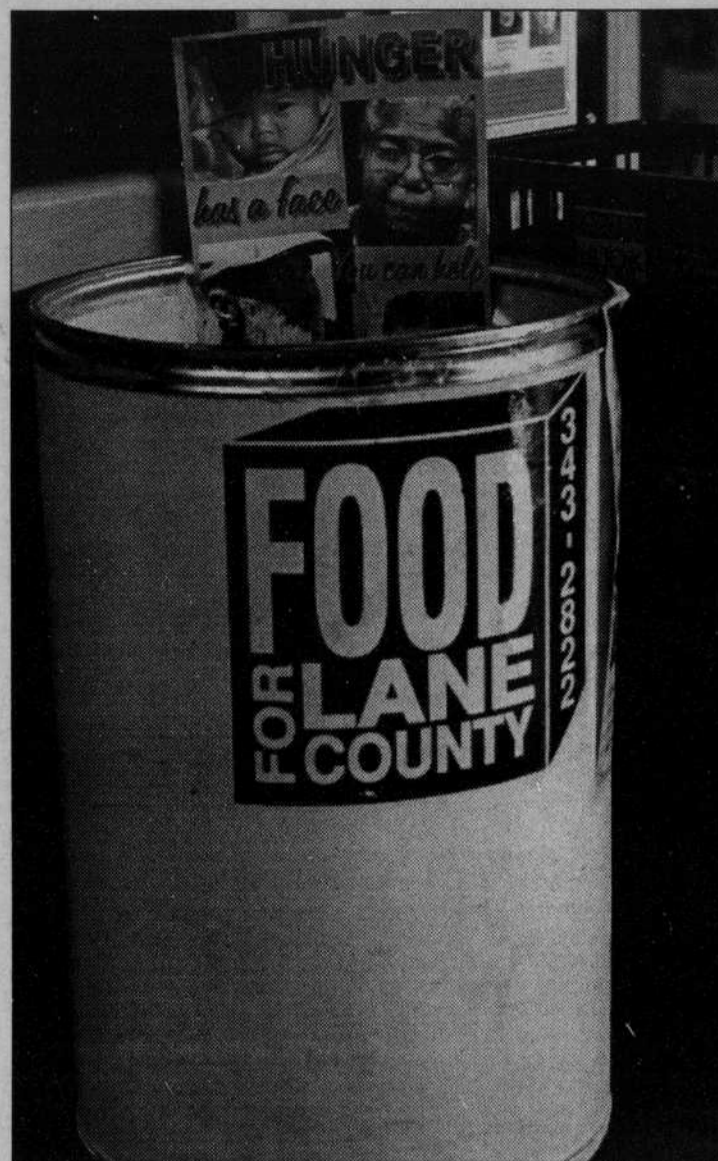
Donations cannot be opened, quickly perishable, homemade or packaged in glass.

Donation barrels are in the following places on campus:

- Agate 224
- Allen 201
- Chapman 125
- Children's Services 350L
- Computing Center
- Condon 107
- Education 102
- Hendricks 224
- Johnson Lobby
- Knight Library 115
- Lawrence 105
- Mail Services
- Music 159
- Oregon Hall
- Pacific 10
- PLC 118
- PLC 175
- PLC 435
- Straub 131
- University Bookstore

healthy and have long shelf lives. She recommends high-protein foods, such as peanut butter and tuna, and canned foods, such as soups and stews.

"When someone donates to Food for Lane County, it's being widely distributed," McGeorge said. "It touches thousands."



Azle Malinao-Alvarez Emerald

Twenty-four Food for Lane County collection barrels are scattered throughout the University. Food donations for the drive will be accepted through March 1.

# Marijuana advocates convene to discuss faltering initiative

■ Two local groups hash out the details of petitions to legalize the manufacture and sale of cannabis

By Emily Gust  
Oregon Daily Emerald

The University's Hemp Education Network joined forces with

the Eugene Cannabis Liberation Society Saturday to "give a run-down of where we're at in the movement," said to CLS presi-

dent and co-founder Dan Koozer. The Network sponsored the meeting in hopes of attracting University students.

The groups sought to organize on a variety of topics, including the status of two petitions float-

ing around to legalize marijuana for all uses in Oregon and discussion of an upcoming rally to be held in Salem on April 20.

At the University, Aaron Reddick, a freshman landscape architect major, is trying to organize students in the movement through the Hemp Education Network, which is part of the ASUO Survival Center. He recently revived and currently runs the student group that he said has been defunct since the 1994-95 school year.

Of the initiatives currently circulating, one is floundering and one remains active. The Oregon Cannabis Taxation Act would "permit the sale of marijuana in the state liquor store," Koozer said, with profits from taxes going into a state fund. But as a result of insufficient support and a faltering number of signatures, that petition has been all but abandoned.

Eyes have turned toward the second and much shorter initiative, a proposed amendment to the state constitution called Oregonians for Personal Privacy.

"It's the most elemental petition," said Nate Clark, a member of the Citizen's Action to Legalize Marijuana in the Year 2000. "It's only one sentence long."

The petition states that "the manufacture, possession and consumption, in private, of the plant cannabis and all of its families and byproducts, shall be legal for all persons 21 years of age and older."

It "in no way affects the distribution of marijuana," Clark said, because it refers only to the actions of individuals in private.

The reason the petition has become a constitutional issue is to prevent the authority of the fed-

eral government from overpowering the state government. In California, Clark said, there have been problems when the federal constitution takes precedence over that of the state.

In Oregon, however, it is the opposite. If supporters can push the OPP amendment all the way to an addition of the constitution, there will be no worries that the federal government will step in and override the state's decision.

The fact that the petition would alter the state constitution forces it up against stiff competition, said John Walsh, co-founder and vice-president of the CLS.

In order to make it to the ballot, the petition must garner between 90,000 and 130,000 signatures before July 7, 2000.

In an effort to gather enough supporters before the deadline, CALM2000 is organizing a rally on the capital steps in Salem at 4:20 p.m., April 20, to implement its project, called the Oregon Plan.

The plan was developed to support the OPP amendment, and at the rally, supporters will be asked to gather signatures.

"It's a final push three months before the signatures are due," Koozer said. "And the goal is to have 10,000 people on the steps that day."

Koozer said the rally will also try to organize all of the pro-cannabis activists into a solid movement because there are so many different personalities at work.

Some bills, like the Cannabis Taxation Act, have seen multiple drafts without any success.

"It's so hard to get people together," Koozer said. "There are a lot of internal rifts."

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