

# Everyone can play a role

Courtesy of Food For Lane County

Envisioning a hunger-free Lane County means we must build partnerships across the public and private sectors. No other organization or individual can do more to help put food on the table for people in need than our partnerships with our community and our government. FOOD for Lane County works with elected officials to share information on the impact of food insecurity in their communities and to support policy solutions to put our neighbors in need on the road to healthy, hunger-free lives. Your voice can and will make a difference. Help us build a powerful movement to eliminate hunger in Lane County and to advocate for programs and policies that bring relief to individuals and families struggling to get by.

FOOD for Lane County's hunger relief efforts are focused on providing food assistance and

increasing self-sufficiency for our neighbors living on limited resources. Our mission of alleviating hunger by creating access to food is accomplished with tremendous support from our community and through a variety of innovative programs. We continually work to develop programs and services that respond to the unique needs of special populations, and we work to ensure that these services are delivered with respect and compassion. The entire food banking system is built on partnerships and collaboration. While FOOD for Lane County administers many of its own programs, we rely on our network of approved partner agencies to distribute the majority of the food we collect. All FFLC Partner Agencies are their own, independent, non-profit or religious organization. Most are staffed by volunteers and are great places to work and volunteer in direct service.

## Current issues

**Federal issues**  
Child Nutrition Reauthorization While there are many challenges facing our country, we need to be sure that solving the issue of childhood hunger is a top priority. Forty nine percent of children enrolled in Oregon public schools qualify for free and reduced priced meals. Please encourage your members of Congress to do all that they can to ensure all of our nation's children have access to healthy, nutritious food so that they can thrive.

## State issues

Oregon Hunger Response Fund Food banks across Oregon depend on the State's contribution to fighting hunger. The Oregon Hunger Response Fund. FOOD for Lane County uses our portion of this fund to help with food drives and building our relationships with grocers for the Fresh Alliance Program. This incredible pro-

gram enables us to offer more variety and to get fresh, healthy foods into the emergency food system. Please thank and encourage your state legislators to continue to support the Oregon Hunger Response Fund.

## Our victories

Oregon Crop Donation Tax Credit, 2014 In April, 2014 Governor Kitzhaber signed the Crop Donation Tax Credit into Law. This bill reinstated and increased a tax credit for farmers based on the wholesale value of surplus crops donated to food banks and other charitable institutions. Farmers can receive a 15% tax credit based on the wholesale value of their donated products, and can carry the credit forward for up to three years. Please help us encourage farmers to utilize the credit, and help bring more healthy produce to those struggling with hunger in our community.

# Helping children get the nutrition they need

by Katie  
Courtesy of Food For Lane County

During the school year, Jennifer works in the kitchen at Harrison Elementary in Cottage Grove. This summer she also worked for FOOD for Lane County as a Summer Food Program site supervisor, serving free lunches to children and teens.

When Jennifer was younger she needed our Summer Food lunches.

"My mom was a single parent and worked two jobs. She worked really hard, but it was still a struggle to put food on the table. During the summer I was responsible for taking care of my brother.

We used the FOOD for Lane County free lunch program every day that we could. We relied on that program. I don't know what we would have done without it." Our Summer Food Program is one way we are helping children get the nutrition they need during the summer when they are at higher risk of hunger. Too many children live in low-income working families struggling to make ends meet. More than one in four (25.3%) Lane County children live in food insecure households, and more than half (53.4%) of all Lane

County children qualify for free lunches during the school year. Jennifer sees childhood hunger at school and is helping to make a difference.

"I know a lot of kids only get one meal a day. That's a scary thing to think about. With this program I can reach a lot more people, and that makes me very happy. I enjoy being involved in something that's worthwhile. It makes me feel really good about life. Jennifer loves being a mom. It's the most important job she has. "I hope my kids can be successful and happy in their life. I hope they don't have to struggle like I did. I will go without a meal before my kids go without. I'll make sure they have something to eat because that's what you do as a mom. That's what you do as a parent."



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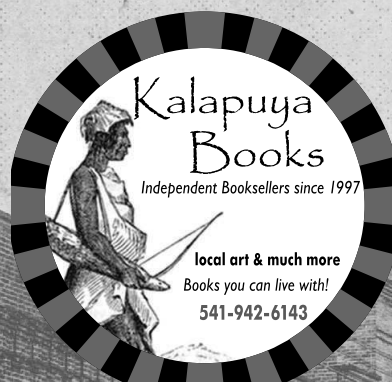
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