

FOOD MATTERS!

FALL 2023



A Professional Pursuit and Personal Mission

For Iván Hernández, Oregon Food Bank's work to eliminate hunger and its root causes isn't just a professional pursuit — it's a personal mission rooted in his own life story.

"Food or the lack of food have been significant parts of my life. My most fond memories — whether it be family gatherings, large celebrations or just dinners with my loved ones — always have food in them. And I'm a big foodie; I love all sorts of food...but food insecurity has also shaped my life," Iván shares.

Iván's experiences ultimately brought him to the OFB team, where he saw an organization that shared his values and was serious about addressing the drivers of hunger. But no matter where Iván has worked, he has focused on making a difference in the community.

"I come from a family and a community where the only way we were able to get by was when we worked together — when we worked collaboratively towards common goals. That has always been my main motivator." Read more at OregonFoodBank.org/Ivan 🐦

Language Justice: A Framework to Disrupt Hunger at its Roots

“Put yourself in their place. If you don’t know how to read or how to navigate the system, you don’t have the support.”

— Eman Abbas, OFB Ambassador

While language access focuses on using interpretation and translation to reduce communication barriers, language justice is a framework that recognizes those barriers as tools of oppression. Examples can be found in the ways English language supremacy has forced assimilation, excluded people from essential services and deepened power disparities in marginalized communities.

Language justice offers a vision of a world where language is no longer a tool for exploitation. Within a language justice framework, we support everyone’s right to communicate, understand and be understood in the language in which they feel most powerful — especially when it comes to accessing vital resources like food, housing and healthcare.

Language access and justice are critical to disrupting hunger at its roots, and in recent years we’ve taken several key steps toward language justice across the OFB community:

- Increased compensation for staff members with language proficiency in communities that disproportionately experiences hunger
- Offered OregonFoodBank.org and social media in Spanish and English — with OregonFoodFinder.org available in 14 languages
- Built in opportunities for OFB supporters to select a language preference
- Provided live Spanish/English interpretation of virtual and in-person events
- Appointed a Language Access Manager who works to improve language access and justice across OFB programs

Language should never be a barrier to participation, whether accessing food assistance or getting involved in efforts to end hunger. And a language justice frame brings us even closer to more inclusive and powerful communities that never go hungry. Read more at

OregonFoodBank.org/LanguageJustice 🐦



Latine Heritage Month

“We, the Latina women, are strong. And I recognize that any woman is strong and can achieve a lot by herself, but I’m convinced that together with other women, we are invincible.” — Yoana Molina Marcial

September 15 to October 15 is Latine Heritage Month. Join us to learn more from Latine leaders working to end hunger in our communities. Read more at OregonFoodBank.org/Latine 🐦



Apples and Infrastructure

“Every two weeks when I get paid, the four of us go to the grocery store. We don’t get very much fresh food, as it costs more, but we always buy four apples. And then we sit in the car in the parking lot and eat those apples. They are our payday treat.”

—Isabel

Isabel shared this story with me nearly 10 years ago. We were talking outside a food pantry in The Dalles, her three elementary-age boys huddled around as we chatted. I remember looking up into the hills to the east and west of where we stood, thinking, “The best apples in the world grow in these hills. This precious family should be able to have all they can eat. Surely we can help fix this and get apples into local food pantries.”

Oregon Food Bank has worked to source and distribute regionally-grown produce as a top priority ever since. We made a commitment to have a year-round supply of apples and other fruits and vegetables grown right here in Oregon — including potatoes, onions and pears. And thanks to partnerships with hundreds of generous growers throughout the Pacific Northwest, we’ve kept that promise.

As fellow food bankers know too well, distributing fresh produce isn’t like handling cans and boxes of non-perishables. It requires large-scale coolers and refrigerated trucks, plus capacity for rapid sorting and distribution. And these equipment, facility and staffing requirements are true throughout our Network — from Oregon Food Bank’s central warehouse, to 21 regional food banks, to 1,400+ food assistance sites.

This is what we mean when we say we’re modernizing our infrastructure. We are investing in new equipment. We are buying new trucks. In some cases we are even building new facilities, such as the Columbia Gorge Food Bank.

Apples for everyone. And especially for Isabel and her boys.

Susannah Morgan
President, Oregon Food Bank



Equity, Racial Justice and **Our Work to End Hunger**

We know that the root causes of food insecurity are systemic injustices – including racism, classism, sexism and more – which perpetuate the conditions that drive hunger and poverty. That’s why our decisions center people who disproportionately experience hunger in our communities – Black, Indigenous and all People of Color, immigrants and refugees, gender expansive individuals, and single mothers and caregivers – in ways that value each other and our lived experiences.

Our mission to end hunger and its root causes calls us all to confront poverty and oppression with solutions that are driven by our communities. That means acknowledging and addressing longtime inequities that worsen food insecurity in our region – and holding ourselves, our partners and our elected leaders accountable to values of equity and racial justice. These values are critical to the health, dignity and well-being of our communities – and to the pursuit of food justice.

To learn more, visit OregonFoodBank.org/Equity 🌱



From Hunger Relief to Food Justice

Throughout Hunger Action Month, we come together to create the future we dream of – one where our communities never know hunger. And this year, we're focused on the pursuit of food justice, going beyond historic "charity models" of food distribution to address the challenges that cause hunger in the first place.

Food justice is grounded in the belief that food is a human right. It's about communities making our own decisions about the food we produce, distribute and consume. It's about ending practices that limit access to nourishing food and create food deserts in our neighborhoods. And it's about preserving native and traditional land stewardship traditions that have fostered sustainable food systems for generations.

Food justice ensures everyone in our communities can access locally-sourced and ethically-produced food – the kind of food that sustains both our people and our planet. And we're excited to highlight a few of the steps we can all take together to pursue food justice in September and beyond!

Get involved at
OregonFoodBank.org/HungerActionMonth 🌱



Thank You for Your Support!

Thank you **Intel** for helping create stronger communities that never know hunger – and to everyone who volunteered at our warehouse this summer!

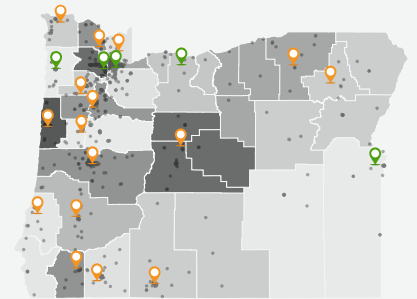
Through the Hunger-Free Project, we're partnering with **Fred Meyer and Fox 12** year round to help end hunger throughout the region. Thank you!



CANstruction Portland is a local charity chapter that raises funds for hunger relief through the creation of CanArt® – beautiful structures made out of full cans of food that are ultimately donated to local food banks. The annual event at Pioneer Place brings together contractors, engineers and architects who use their talents to build larger-than-life structures out of food – raising awareness of hunger and driving action along the way. Over 25 years of partnership with Oregon Food Bank, CANstruction has provided over 1.2 million meals for families facing food insecurity!

Ameriprise Financial • Clark Foundation • Feeding America – Thanks to Flowers.com • Feeding America – Thanks to Crate and Barrel • Feeding America • Fred Meyer Fund • Friends of Tina Kotek • Guinness • Intel Corporation • Juan Young Trust • B.P. Lester and Regina John Foundation • Kaiser Permanente • M.J. Murdock Charitable Trust • Multnomah County • NIKE, Inc. • Nordstrom • onsemi • Portland Children's Levy • Portland General Electric • Roundhouse Foundation • Safe Child Fund • Nourishing Neighbors Albertsons and Safeway Foundation • Slalom Consulting • The Coit Family Foundation • The Standard • United States Department of Agriculture • Wheeler Foundation

Food is Available to All Who Need It!



Our Network includes 1,400+ free food markets, pantries and meal sites throughout Oregon and Southwest Washington – and many locations offer contactless pick-up or delivery options.

If you or someone you know needs support, know that resources are available to help area families with the rising cost of food and housing.

Find food assistance sites near you at OregonFoodFinder.org – now available in 14 languages common to the Pacific Northwest!



OregonFoodBank.org
503-282-0555



@oregonfoodbank