

FOOD MATTERS!

WINTER 2021



COVID-19 Escalates Food Insecurity

It is no secret that we faced enormous, converging challenges this past year. But your support has allowed Oregon Food Bank to remain responsive and reliable in meeting evolving community needs – and to create profound, transformative change for people experiencing food insecurity.

In the pandemic's wake, the experience of hunger deepened for hundreds of thousands and expanded as families faced food insecurity for the first time. And even more had long faced systemic challenges that drive hunger and poverty. And the pandemic

compounded all of these struggles, creating wider gaps between household incomes and essential needs. Making matters worse, nearly 70,000 essential workers were ineligible for enhanced benefits included in federal relief packages. **At the pandemic's peak, nearly 1.7 million community members sought food assistance through the Oregon Food Bank Network — double what we saw the year prior.**

Alongside our community, we commit to continue navigating the many challenges of natural disasters layered on top of the ongoing pandemic. 🌱

The Best in Us

As I write this, more than 735,000 people in America have died due to COVID-19 — and the number facing hunger and poverty has grown by tens of millions. In 2020, the Oregon Food Bank Network saw nearly double the amount of people who sought assistance in 2019. And communities who have experienced disproportionate rates of hunger for decades have been hit especially hard — people of color, immigrants and refugees, trans and gender non-conforming communities, and single moms and caregivers.



And yet, in many ways, this pandemic has brought out the best in us. In the midst of a massive public health and economic disaster, our community acted with and for one another. Staff and volunteers across 21 regional food banks and 1,400 food assistance sites kept food flowing to those of us facing hunger. The outpouring of community generosity through time, money and energy has been nothing short of phenomenal. We have cared for each other in large and small ways — and we have uncovered new power to drive collective change.

Even during the worst crisis of my lifetime, we made meaningful progress toward resilient communities that never go hungry. We advanced legislative changes that will improve the lives of millions of people in Oregon and across the country: a permanent increase in Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits; expansion of the federal Child Tax Credit; major state investments in food and housing security; and a more inclusive Oregon for immigrant and refugee communities.

Internally, we recommitted our organization to the pursuit of equity and racial justice in all we do. We launched a Policy Leadership Council, made up entirely of community leaders with lived experience of hunger and its root causes, to lead our work in identifying and removing barriers to prosperity for all. And we raised our organizational minimum wage to \$21.50, so that no one who works here will ever have to make the impossible choice between food and other essentials.

This is the best in us — and there is so much more we can do together. With the challenges and opportunities ahead, there's no time to rest. If we continue as we have begun, I know that we will #EmergeStronger together.

With love and respect,



Susannah Morgan
CEO, Oregon Food Bank

2021 Impact by the Numbers

65,065 SUPPORTERS

donated financially, including 25,998 new supporters



281,000+ COMMUNITY

MEMBERS found resources in 14 languages via FoodFinder



52.5 MILLION MEALS

shared across our Network



6,000 GROCERY GIFT CARDS

distributed in BIPOC and immigrant communities



51% OF ALL FOOD

distributed as fresh or frozen produce, dairy and protein



7,000+ ACTIONS

to advance anti-hunger policy and systems change



10,350 VOLUNTEER

SHIFTS supported central food distribution efforts



\$350,000 DIRECTED

to wildfire recovery efforts



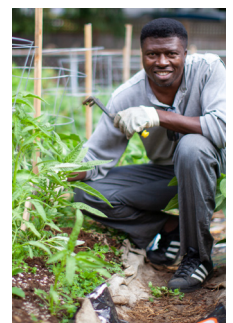
Thank You for Taking Action During Hunger Action Month

We did it — Hunger Action Month 2021 was a success! Because of your actions, we are closer to ending hunger and its root causes for good.

Whether you emailed your members of Congress, tuned in to our 'State of Hunger' Address, made a

monthly donation, volunteered or shared our social media posts with us — we appreciate all that you do!

Hunger Action Month might be over, until next year, but our work continues. Please keep following us through our different channels and invite your friends and family to join the movement. Together, we can end hunger. To learn more about Hunger Action Month, visit oregonfoodbank.org/hungeractionmonth. 🌱



Establishing Year-Round Civic Engagement Initiatives

Through year-round civic engagement, Oregon Food Bank is building a base of individuals and organizational partners that are cultivating a movement for racial, gender and economic justice across the state.



In spite of pandemic-spurred limitations, Oregon Food Bank engaged in a significant effort to promote participation

in the 2020 Census — then built upon that foundation to establish an effective #EmergeStronger outreach program through the 2020 elections. Coalition efforts contributed to winning a new congressional seat in Oregon and helped to deliver victories in seven of

eight endorsed ballot measures — including major investments in early childhood education, mental health services, public safety and police reform, and other key resources that help communities thrive.

Combined, these victories will impact the root causes of hunger, provide benefits and reduce barriers for individuals and families likely to experience food insecurity, and advance equity for Black, Indigenous and all People of Color. 🌱



Strengthening Community Partnerships

Through phone conversations, text banks, virtual gatherings and more, over 5,600 community members engaged in 1-on-1 conversations about the voting process and anti-hunger issues on the ballot. Combined, our broader civic engagement efforts were accessed more than 5.6 million times across email, social media, advertising and the our #VoteOutHunger action hub.

Importantly, the majority of person-to-person engagement was led by leaders in the Latinx, African and Karen communities. Just one example: for several years, we have partnered with Oregon Coalition of African Community Leaders (ORCACL), which includes



"Our communities need to make informed decisions. As leaders, we need to inform and promote political education."

Liban Satu, ORCACL

immigrants and refugees from various regions the African continent. Together, we organized online community discussions about anti-hunger ballot measures — including dozens of new leaders recruited specifically to engage in the policy change efforts. We then worked to identify eligible voters in leaders' communities and supported outreach, registration and turnout efforts. 🌱

Pandemic Innovation in Food Distribution

Over the past year Oregon Food Bank leaned into flexibility, innovation and adaptation in response to the ongoing pandemic, wildfires and national momentum to bring about racial justice and transformational change.

Public health restrictions and logistical challenges required an entirely new approach to many of our food sourcing and distribution strategies. To facilitate high volumes of perishable foods during the purchasing surge, we piloted new distributions at our warehouses to ensure partner agencies without refrigeration could access fresh produce, dairy and other perishable products. To limit exposure among OFB and partner staff, we closed our central docks and transitioned to direct delivery to partner organizations agencies.

Oregon Food Bank has maintained a presence and key leadership role in support of the Office of Emergency Management's Emergency Service Functions in partnership with Department of Human Services (DHS), the virtual Emergency Command Center and State Feeding Taskforce. Through ingenuity, hard work and care for our community, we have maintained critical services through supply chain disruptions, public health challenges and extended wildfires and natural disasters.



And with your support, Oregon Food Bank also tended to our partners with guidance, funding and infrastructure support. Our newly-launched Network Equity & Racial Justice team helps ensure the vitality of the anti-hunger movement's ecosystem throughout our region. For example, in the past year, we increased our grantmaking to exceed \$800,000 for organizations led by and rooted within Black, Indigenous and other communities of color – along with \$150,000 in financial relief for essential immigrant and migrant workers through the Oregon Worker Relief Fund. 🌱

Oregon Harvest Dinner: Inside The Network

This year's Oregon Harvest Dinner was full of inspiring examples of community power and resilience. And our virtual gathering proved to be a huge success!

So many of the stories shared at Harvest Dinner highlighted an important truth: the most impactful anti-hunger work starts within communities. We are honored to work alongside these leaders as they guide us in creating resilient communities that never know hunger.

Special thanks to our sponsors, emcee and auctioneer – along with all of you – who raised essential funds to end hunger and its root causes. Learn more at avlaunch.me/ofb 🌱



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Thank You for Your Support!

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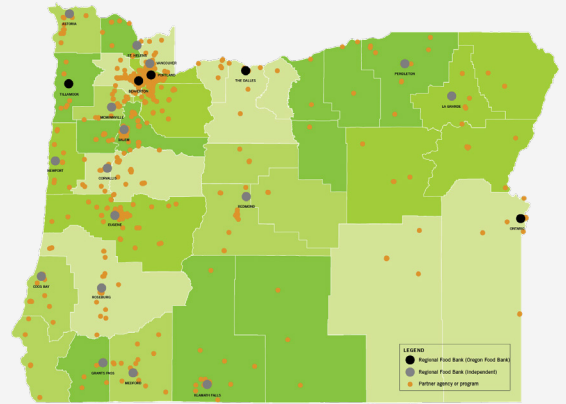
Businesses Can Influence Public Policies!

Oregon Food Bank is partnering with local businesses to end hunger through advocacy and civic engagement activities. Together, we will be a powerful voice to influence public policies that affect our communities.

Contact Yan Medice, Assistant Manager of Corporate and Community Relations, to learn more and join us!
YMedice@oregonfoodbank.org or 503-853-8734.



Food is Available to All Who Need It!



Our Network of 1,400+ pantries and meal sites remains open throughout Oregon and Southwest Washington — with many locations now offering contactless pick-up or delivery options.

If you or someone you know needs support, know that resources are available. From SNAP benefits to housing assistance, program expansions and new initiatives are underway to support families who are struggling in the wake of COVID-19.

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



oregonfoodbank.org | 503.282.0555

