

FOOD MATTERS!

WINTER 2020



The Power of Community-Led Change

“As the saying goes, many hands make light work,” says community leader and Garden Ambassador Liban Satu. Liban is one of many leaders whose work demonstrates the power of community-led change.

Liban and fellow community leaders Yonas Kassie and Mohamed Salim Bahamadi have worked alongside Oregon Food Bank staff to provide their communities with resources and knowledge during a challenging year. Together, they crafted an innovative Grocery Gift Card program to connect community members with culturally-specific food as the pandemic’s impact worsened. The Grocery Gift Card program created a partnership with local markets to generate business and provide support directly to neighbors seeking food assistance.

“The voucher system is not only helping the community members who buy, but also those culturally-specific stores,” says Yonas. “It’s a win-win situation.”

In addition to crafting a community-focused voucher program, Liban, Yonas and Mohamed have worked tirelessly to host virtual workshops, information sessions and phone banks to share the importance of participation in the 2020 Census and fall elections.

“We have partnered as African community leaders to form a coalition so we can do more. When it comes to Census and voting, we combine efforts and educate our people,” says Mohamed.

Along with their community engagement work, each leader also operates their own non-profit service organization. These organizations offer a host of critical resources — from direct food assistance, to awareness of supportive programs, to translation of important materials into native languages.

“It’s always good for us to participate in all the activities here,” says Liban. “There’s a lot of work to be done.” Watch their story at oregonfoodbank.org/communitypower 🐣

Emerging Stronger from Trying Times



We've certainly had some trying times this year. But by golly, have we risen to the challenge!

Less than a year ago, we were thrilled to see the impact of our shared work: hunger in Oregon and Southwest Washington

was decreasing significantly. Today, our public safety nets are under attack — and insufficient to address the economic disruption of an ongoing pandemic and recent wildfires. The result? Hunger is at its highest level in nearly a century.

This year has really shown us how fragile food security can be. Hundreds of thousands of us experienced hunger for the first time and encountered what so many more of us already knew — that hunger is horrible. Worrying about feeding yourself or your family can dominate your life and destroy your peace.

This year we learned — once again — that the most marginalized communities in our society are hit the hardest during tough times. Our immigrant and refugee communities, who disproportionately pick our food and operate our food processing plants, have experienced especially high rates of illness from COVID-19 and were heartlessly excluded from federal assistance.

This year, we also learned that our communities will rise and persist. In the face of skyrocketing hunger and in the midst of a pandemic requiring strict public health standards, we've kept food flowing.

The Oregon Food Bank Network — comprised of local leadership and volunteers at 1,400 food assistance sites, 21 regional food banks and the Oregon Food Bank statewide warehouse — never slowed down. We adapted, we innovated, we built new and exciting partnerships, and we prioritized our neighbors experiencing hunger.

Oregon Food Bank's vision is to build resilient communities that never know hunger. That resilience is not exclusionary or experienced in a vacuum — I can only be healthy and safe if you are healthy and safe.

Thank you for continuing to be a part of our community. With your support and collaboration, we will pursue our work to ensure every single person in Oregon and Southwest Washington can #EmergeStronger. 🌱

Susannah Morgan
CEO, Oregon Food Bank

Thank You For Taking Action to #VoteOutHunger

This year's Hunger Action Month was unlike any other, as we worked to address the combined impact of wildfires and the ongoing pandemic. Thousands of supporters took the pledge to #VoteOutHunger, shared anti-hunger voting resources and donated to help our communities fight unprecedented food insecurity. Thank you!

We are grateful for all you've done — and for everything you'll continue to do in the months ahead. Fall was just the beginning of the work that we will be doing for years to come as we join together to build resilient communities that never go hungry.



#VoteOutHunger Victories

Members of our community turned out in overwhelming numbers to vote out hunger — supporting ballot measures that address root causes of hunger like systemic racism and inequities in education, healthcare and housing. Among this year's #VoteOutHunger victories:

✓ Campaign Finance Constitutional Amendment (Measure 107)

Unfair campaign donation policies mean the voices of wealthy contributors are louder than those of our communities — especially people facing hunger. This measure will help to ensure the priorities of all Oregonians are heard.

✓ Decriminalization and Treatment (Measure 110)

Disproportionate arrests and imprisonment among people of color lead to unjust debt, family separation and loss of employment and housing — all root causes of hunger. This measure reduces punishment for possession and supports peoples' health by improving access to treatment and recovery services.

✓ Multnomah County Library Bond (Measure 26-211)

Libraries are a cornerstone of thriving communities — and critical to the social safety net for people facing hunger. Libraries provide access to the internet and other valuable community resources in a safe, indoor space that is not cost prohibitive.

✓ Portland Parks and Recreation Levy (Measure 26-213)

This measure will help ensure that our parks and community centers continue to connect families to nutritious food and other supportive resources via summer meal programs — creating jobs in the process.

✓ Portland Public Schools Bond Renewal (Measure 26-215)

Our schools connect families to critical community resources — supporting children with daily meals and snacks. These funds invest in buildings and educational opportunities that help students and families thrive.

✓ Preschool for All in Multnomah County (Measure 26-214)

Early education programs connect kids with food and other essential resources. This measure will ensure families have access to critical support through free, year-round preschool — regardless of income.

✓ City of Portland Independent Oversight Committee (Measure 26-217)

Made up of people of color and other community members who disproportionately face hunger and poverty, this independent body will improve accountability and recommend community-centered reforms.

Visit oregonfoodbank.org/voteouthunger for more information on endorsed ballot measures and other ways to get involved. 🌱

2020 Hunger Hero Inspires Pacific Islander Community

Sandra Wells is a longtime advocate and activist in her community. While her job title is Community Health Worker, she can also be found working as a translator and interpreter of Palauan language, a Compact of Free Association (COFA) health insurance project coordinator and since the start of the pandemic, a COVID-19 contact tracer and wraparound services provider. Sandra, or Auntie Sandi as friends and colleagues call her, is an inspiration to her community and the recipient of Oregon Food Bank's 2020 Hunger Hero Award.



“It’s important for me to be an advocate because I believe each and every one of us just needs a little help to get on our own two feet,” says Sandi.

Sandi has spent her career focusing on the needs of the Pacific Islander community in Portland. As a Palauan, the community identifies her as someone they can relate to and someone who understands the challenges they have to overcome.

“Auntie Sandi is a huge supporter of mentoring and leadership development. We need leaders who look like us, who know what it’s like to be from an Island very far away,” says Virginia Luka, who works with the Pacific Islander Community at the Multnomah County Health Department. “I think it’s absolutely critical to have a person like Auntie Sandi.” Watch Sandi’s story at oregonfoodbank.org/hunger-hero 🐦

Oregon Harvest Dinner Showcases Community Power

Though we weren’t able to join together in-person for this year’s Oregon Harvest Dinner, the event was just as 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: that the most impactful anti-hunger work starts within communities, led by people with lived experience who know the solutions that are needed. 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 made the best of a virtual gala by raising essential funds for Oregon Food Bank’s ongoing mission to end hunger and its root causes... *because no one should be hungry.* 🐦

Presenting Sponsor: Delta Fire **Hunger Hero Sponsor:** Charter Mechanical **Gold Sponsors:** Hampton Lumber, Fred Meyer **Silver Sponsors:** First Tech Federal Credit Union, NIKE, Schnitzer Steel Industries, Subaru, Jacobs, New Seasons Market **Bronze Sponsors:** NW Natural, Boeing, Hoffman Construction Company, Kaiser Permanente, Stoel Rives LLP, Tillamook, Polar Beverage, Maletis Beverage, Aramark-Lifeworks, Vista Capital Partners

#GivingTuesday is December 1



Black Friday. Small Business Saturday. Cyber Monday. #GivingTuesday.

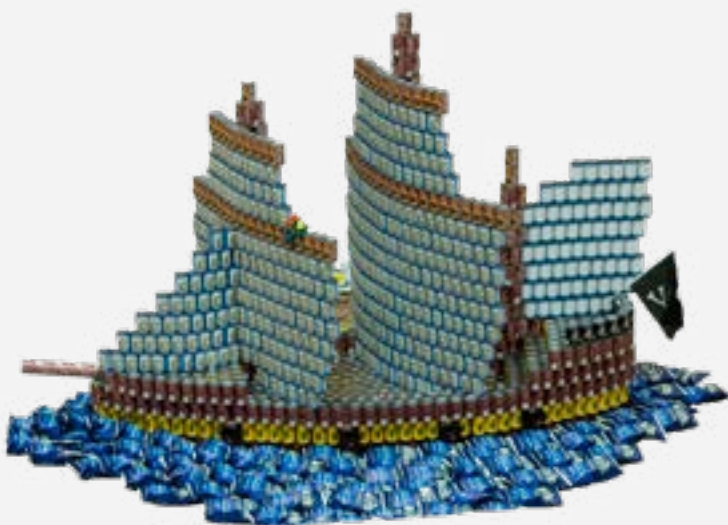
#GivingTuesday is the global day of giving, occurring this year on December 1.

When you donate during this giving season, you help our community emerge stronger from wildfires, COVID-19 and the resulting economic downturn. Your support on #GivingTuesday helps to ensure that the one in five people in our region facing food insecurity won't go hungry today. And thanks to an anonymous \$40,000 match, your gift will double its impact — building community power to tackle the root causes of food insecurity.

Visit oregonfoodbank.org/givingtuesday to give back and help us end hunger for good! 🌱

Annual CANstruction Competition Goes Online

Each year, Portland's Architecture, Engineering & Construction community comes together for CANstruction — an event where local firms bring their industry knowledge and competitive spirit to design, engineer and construct giant structures made entirely out of shelf-stable food. When COVID-19 hit Oregon and in-person gatherings were no longer possible, CANstruction volunteers put their heads together to continue the fight against hunger as it spiked across our region. CANstruction created a peer-to-peer fundraising competition where supporters can vote with their dollars for their favorite structure from the past 24 years.



The CANstruction winner is the 2006 Juror's Favorite: The Buc-can-eer by Yost Grube Hall — raising over \$1,666 as of publication. This year, supporters have raised over \$8,000 — and, since its inception, CANstruction has provided over 1.2 million meals to our community. 🌱

Thank You for Your Support!



Support from **First Tech Federal Credit Union** as our Hunger Action Month sponsor brought awareness and action to #VoteOutHunger. Thank you!



Appreciation for **Delta Fire** for the ongoing commitment to hunger relief in our communities.

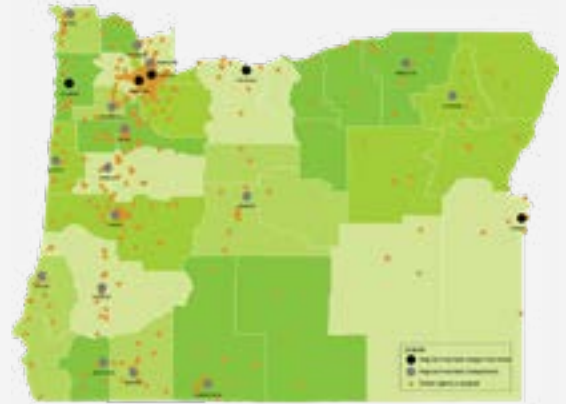


We are grateful for the Portland employees and the entire **Danone North America** team for providing our community with as many as 90,000 meals.



Thank you to **Stoll Berne** and **Oregon Lawyers Against Hunger** for over 20 years of fighting hunger!

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 11 languages common to the Pacific Northwest!



oregonfoodbank.org | 503.282.0555



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