

FOOD MATTERS!



SUMMER 2023



Power of Community: Eman Abbas

Meet Eman Abbas. Eman is a community leader, an immigrant, a mother and an advocate for housing, food assistance and legal aid. When Eman first came to the United States, she — like many immigrants — faced barriers as she sought access to resources like food assistance.

Today, as a Food Systems Ambassador with Oregon Food Bank, Eman manages a monthly food distribution, providing culturally specific, halal foods for Muslim families. Programs like Eman's create the

foundation for a world where *all* families not only survive, but thrive.

"Food is one of the essentials that everybody needs — it does not matter where you are from or which community [you're part of]," Eman shares. "As a mother, if I cannot support my kids with food, they cannot go to school, do their jobs or live their life. It's something essential. And if they don't have it, it'll be a barrier for them to be successful." Read more at OregonFoodBank.org/Eman 🐦

Partner Spotlight: Micronesian Islander Community

Food is a human right and Food for All Oregonians is one solution in reducing the barriers to accessing food in Oregon. Senate Bill 610 extends food assistance to 62,000 Oregonians facing hunger due to immigration status.

Micronesian Islander Community (MIC), a non-profit organization based in Salem, knows this issue all too well. MIC is dedicated to bringing Micronesians together, advocating for social and racial justice and raising Micronesian awareness. And as a steering committee member in the Food for All Oregonians coalition, MIC is dedicated to working to improve food security statewide. Among the groups MIC supports are community members from the Compact of Free Association (COFA) — Pacific Island nations with a direct connection to the United States, including the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands and the Republic of Palau. Though COFA citizens can live, work and study in the U.S. with few restrictions, community members are excluded from many vital resources like the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).



Kapiolani Micky, MIC Community Health Worker

Bella Borja, MIC Advocacy Director



"People need access to culturally appropriate food. We know that oppression is a root cause of health impacts for different communities. When we see people's native lands being destroyed, they lose access to their own local food sources. Oftentimes, this is then replaced with processed foods or foods that people don't know how to cook. We know that consuming highly processed foods can lead to chronic illnesses, diseases, obesity and a host of other health concerns," says Bella Borja, MIC Advocacy Director.

Everyone in Oregon should have access to the food we need to thrive, no matter where we were born. Read more at OregonFoodBank.org/MIC 🐦



Food for All Oregonians Legislation One Step Closer to Law

On April 3, the Senate Committee On Human Services voted "YES" on the Food for All Oregonians bill (SB 610) with bipartisan support. This means we are one step closer to building a future where immigration status no longer drives hunger and poverty in our communities. Get involved at FoodForAllOR.org 🐦



Kindness and Justice

“Kindness and justice are not synonymous. Be kind. And advocate and work for justice. Lives depend on it.” – Bernice King



We do both kindness and justice at Oregon Food Bank.

Kindness shows up as a primary value in our food assistance network. This vast, connected web of organizations, warehouses, trucks, staff, food donors and volunteers includes our statewide warehouse, 21 regional food banks and more than 1,400 local food assistance sites. It is kindness that inspires us to ensure that locally-grown, culturally familiar food is available to our neighbors facing hunger. And we do so with humility, with the recognition that fortunes turn quickly, with the understanding that those of us who have food to share today might be in need of food assistance tomorrow.

The sharing of food is a powerful act of love. We are proud of the work done over 40 years by thousands of organizations and millions of people to build our food assistance network. And we continue to invest in evolving and improving our efforts across Oregon and Southwest Washington.

But food distribution doesn't address the underlying reasons why people face hunger in the first place. Hunger is caused by poverty, by systemic inequities. So we also advocate for justice. We work with communities throughout the region on policies that address the root causes of hunger: living wage jobs, access to affordable housing and healthcare, local food systems and more. And we do so by prioritizing those of us who are most affected by hunger and oppression: communities of color; immigrant, refugee and migrant communities; transgender and gender diverse communities; and single mothers and caregivers.

We undertake public policy work for justice, to end hunger for good. As Cornel West says, “Never forget that justice is what love looks like in public.”

With love and hope,

Susannah Morgan
CEO, Oregon Food Bank



A New Home to **End Hunger** in the Gorge

It's hard to keep a secret in the Gorge. As a tight-knit community, word tends to spread fast when something exciting is underway. So it was no surprise to see a lot of curiosity when we broke ground in The Dalles late last Spring. But now the wait is over, and after a year of work we're excited to open the doors to Columbia Gorge Food Bank's new facilities!

These have been some pretty tough years for just about everyone in our region. This new building is a promise of something better for

our community — a promise that, together, we can end hunger for good. It creates opportunities to improve access to fresh and healthy food for area families, to expand partnerships with area growers and producers, to create the kind of community connections that will help end hunger in our area. And together, we can do it.

Help make Columbia Gorge Food Bank's new building a new home with your gift today. Visit OregonFoodBank.org/CGFB-NewHome 🐾

Hunger, Reproductive Justice and Gender-Affirming Healthcare Access

For more than 30 years, Oregon Food Bank's mission has been to eliminate hunger and its root causes — and we take that mission very seriously. Lack of access to affordable, comprehensive healthcare services is a lead driver of hunger and poverty here in Oregon and across the country. Too many families are forced to make impossible choices between accessing vital healthcare and putting food on the table.

We need action to improve access to healthcare statewide, especially in under-resourced small towns and rural and remote areas. The fight for access to essential resources like food and healthcare — including reproductive and gender-affirming care — is both connected and critical to Oregonians' self-determination, safety and ability to thrive. We need action to improve access to these vital services statewide, especially in under-resourced small towns and rural and remote areas. That's why Oregon Food Bank supports important legislation like Reproductive Health and Access to Care (House Bill 2002), to help ensure everyone in Oregon has access to the resources our families need — regardless of race, gender, religion or immigration status.

Read our testimony on House Bill 2002 and get involved at OregonFoodBank.org/Testimony 🌱



Together, we exceeded our 2 million meal goal!



This March our community raised 2,048,067 meals through the **KGW Great Food Drive!** Thank you to everyone who made a donation at your local Safeway, gave online or by mail, made a food donation or volunteered. Your actions support our ongoing efforts to keep food flowing throughout our network and address hunger at its roots. We would also like to thank KGW and the Great Food Drive sponsors for their partnership and continued commitment to ending hunger. Thank you to Toyota, Safeway, Rivermark, Pacific Foods and Pacific Office Automation! 🌱

Make a Big Impact With a Future Gift

When you include Oregon Food Bank in your estate plan, your generosity builds community connections to help people access nutritious, affordable food today and build community power that will eliminate the root causes of hunger once and for all.

Our planned giving team would be happy to speak with you in confidence, with no obligation. To learn more about making a gift to Oregon Food Bank through a charitable gift annuity or a bequest in your estate plan, visit PlannedGiving.OregonFoodBank.org or contact Matthew Maas at LegacyGiving@OregonFoodBank.org or 971-223-3410 🐾

Thank You for Your Support!



Thank you, **First Tech**, for supporting OFB Community Briefings as our Presenting Sponsor!



Thank you, **New Seasons**, for your ongoing partnership and support of Food for All Oregonians!



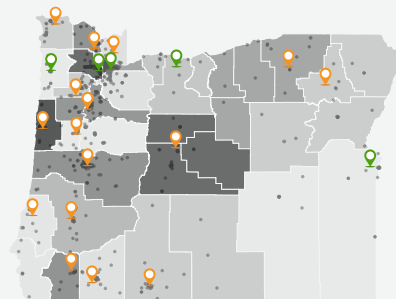
Thank you, **PGE**, for your recent gift to help build hunger-free communities. We are so grateful for your partnership!



Since 1997, the **Oregon Lawyers Against Hunger** campaign has supported our mission through volunteer action, fundraising, food donations and raising awareness of inequities throughout the region. Thank you to all the lawyers and firms who contributed more than 600,000 meals in our communities this year!

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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



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