

FOOD MATTERS!



SUMMER 2024



Inside Oregon Food Bank: **A Conversation with C. Nathan Harris**

"I identify as gender expansive. My husband's parents immigrated from the Philippines and he is a Green Card holder. To live, my mother relies on SNAP, HUD subsidies, Medicare and Medicaid, social security and disability benefits. So the communities that Oregon Food Bank works alongside and within, the communities impacted by hunger and systemic inequity, and campaigns like Food for All Oregonians — these communities are my family by birth and choice. They are the people with whom I'm in closest relationship. They are us." — C. Nathan Harris

C. Nathan Harris is the Director of Community Philanthropy at Oregon Food Bank. Personal experiences of systemic injustice paved Nathan's path to this work, and their lived experience guides their passion for the causes Nathan works for today. They are a social justice leader with two decades in philanthropy, helping to expand national civil liberties, relieve hunger and poverty, increase access to education and healthcare and shift public opinion toward fairness.

Read Nathan's story at
OregonFoodBank.org/Nathan 🐦



Why am I leaving? The short answer is: love.

I am leaving my role at Oregon Food Bank in late 2024.* And WOW! It hurts to write that.

Why am I leaving? The short answer is: love. My wife Dr. Jocelyn Krebs has accepted a position at the Armellino Center of Excellence on Williams Syndrome at University of Pennsylvania Perelman School of Medicine. We will be relocating our family to Pennsylvania this summer or fall.

Jocelyn is a molecular biologist whose lab at the University of Alaska studied the section of DNA that is missing in a person with the rare genetic condition Williams Syndrome. Then, our older son Rhys was diagnosed with Williams Syndrome in 2010 when he was 18 months old. A few years later, Jocelyn joined the National Williams Syndrome Association Board of Directors, ultimately serving as Board Chair.

Jocelyn's whole life has been preparing her for this position at the University of Pennsylvania. Rhys and every person with Williams Syndrome needs someone as brilliant and capable as Jocelyn leading research and clinical trials.

So it is love — for my wife, for my son and for the Williams Syndrome community — that is pulling me away from Oregon Food Bank.

Why does it hurt to leave? The short answer is: love. I have loved my more than 11 years at Oregon Food Bank. I have loved leading this collaborative, ambitious, learning, thought-leader of a food bank. I love my colleagues dearly, and I love so many many members of the greater Oregon Food Bank community — partners, donors, volunteers, Board members.

I am confident Oregon Food Bank will flourish in its next chapter, without me, because of the excellence of the people, the power of our vision and the strength of our community. I am proud to leave Oregon Food Bank even better prepared to eliminate hunger and its root causes.

But oh, I will miss you all so.

Susannah Morgan

President, Oregon Food Bank

*The Oregon Food Bank Board of Directors has formed a search committee and is contracting with an executive search firm, who will conduct a nation-wide search for a new President.



Food Justice is Gender Justice

The labor for food justice and gender justice are directly connected. Alongside single mothers and caregivers, transgender and gender expansive communities experience some of the highest rates of food insecurity nationwide.

At Oregon Food Bank, we firmly believe in the pursuit of food justice — that everyone in our communities should have access to nourishing, locally-sourced and ethically-produced food. This means distributing food is not enough to solve hunger — we must address the challenges that prevent people from accessing the resources we need to thrive.

Sexism, gender-based oppression and racism have long driven hunger and poverty in our communities. And these drivers continue today in many forms, from the gender wage gap, to attacks on access to reproductive and gender-affirming healthcare, to domestic and sexual violence.

The recent rise in efforts to marginalize women and trans communities tells us that to truly end hunger, we must address gender disparities and discrimination as a root cause of food insecurity.

Learn more at
OregonFoodBank.org/GenderJustice 🌱

Victories and Missed Opportunities in Oregon's 2024 Legislative Session

Oregon's Legislature wrapped up its session on March 7. Food security victories included investments in summer funding for families with children, affordable housing, childcare and more. Unfortunately, the legislature also made decisions that will worsen hunger in Oregon. Join us in the work ahead to advocate for policies that end hunger and its root causes.

Learn more at OregonFoodBank.org/2024Session 🌱



Food Assistance is Available This Summer

For families facing food insecurity, June has long marked a time when kids no longer have easy access to breakfast and lunch at school.

The rising cost of food and housing is worsening food insecurity in Oregon, Southwest Washington and across the country. Last year, we saw 1.9 million visits to food assistance sites through the Oregon Food Bank Network — a record number indicating a hunger crisis in our communities.

The summer months are shaping up to be an even more difficult period for so many of us to make ends meet. So whether you live in the city, the suburbs, or in our rural and remote areas, know that food is available this summer.

Thanks to strong government and community support, there are a host of resources available to support area families over the summer months including:

- The Summer Food Service Program — offering free meals and snacks to all kids and teens.
- The newly-passed Summer EBT program, providing eligible families an additional \$40 per month for three months during the summer.
- Many farmers' markets, community supported agriculture (CSA) programs and grocery stores will double the value of SNAP dollars if they participate in the Double Up Food Bucks program.

Find resources and learn more at
OregonFoodBank.org/Summer 🌱

Oregon Food Bank's 2024 Changemakers

"As an affordable housing organization, we know that housing alone isn't enough to create greater opportunities for Oregonians and alleviate the churn of homelessness and poverty. Nutrition access and education is also essential in creating a stable foundation that allows Oregonians to achieve their full potential. We are thrilled to partner in this work with Oregon Food Bank, in Eastern Oregon and across the state, to address the root causes of hunger and housing insecurity." — Trell Anderson, Executive Director, Northwest Housing Alternatives

The Oregon Food Bank Changemakers program honors partners whose mobilization helps end hunger at its roots. This program, alongside our Community Cultivator program, recognizes a wide range of support — financial gifts as well as the priceless gifts of time, advocacy and energy. We are proud to announce the 2024 Changemakers, who have been nominated by the Oregon Food Bank Network and employees.

See the full list of 2024 Changemakers at OregonFoodBank.org/2024Changemakers 🐾



SNAP Leads to Positive Health Outcomes



The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), formerly known as food stamps, is our country's most effective anti-hunger program, lifting millions of people out of poverty each year. Research shows that SNAP access leads to positive outcomes in homelessness prevention, education and early learning, job retention, health equity and behavioral health.

Sign up for Oregon Food Bank action alerts to encourage lawmakers at state and federal levels to end harmful exclusions from SNAP at OregonFoodBank.org/ActionAlerts 🐾



Thank You for Your Support!



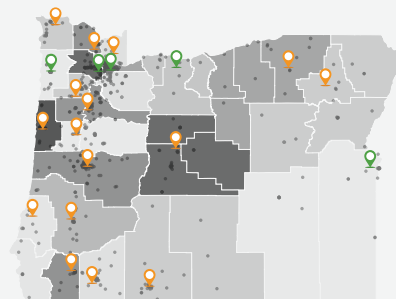
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**Food is
Available to All
Who Need It!**



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
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