

FOOD MATTERS!



SUMMER 2025



Zakariya Mahad

Paying it forward – and giving back – in Ontario

Zakariya Mahad's fight for food equity started in an Ontario, Oregon boxing ring. Zak was sparring at the gym when he spotted Eddie Melendrez, an Oregon Food Bank organizer who had helped Zak's family when they fled Somalia in 2013.

Reconnecting over lunch, Zak and Eddie realized that they shared a passion for community-centered change. When Eddie mentioned Oregon Food Bank's Food Systems Ambassador program, a community-based initiative to improve access to food, Zak saw how he could help.

He began by distributing food boxes to Somali community members once a month and soon expanded his work to support a group of Latina single moms.

Supporting these moms is a way for Zak to pay it forward: "I've been in that situation where you don't speak the language and you're not sure what kind of resources are available to you," he explained. "There were so many people in the community who stepped up to make my family feel welcome, and I just want to return the favor." Read more about Zak's work at OregonFoodBank.org/Zak ✨

Showing up for one another

You may have seen the news in the past few months — the federal government has cut critical food assistance programs. I



hear from people every day asking what they can do to help — in the grocery store, at the doctor's office, at my kids' school. And honestly, I'm not surprised. That's who we are as Oregonians —

we show up for one another. That's what keeps me going, even now.

Because let's be real — it is hard out there. Families are making impossible choices between rent, child care, medication and food. The rising cost of living, coupled with these cuts to federal food assistance, makes it even harder to make ends meet. And at Oregon Food Bank, we are seeing the effects firsthand — more of our neighbors are turning to local food pantries, many for the first time.

Cuts to programs like the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC, which funds large-scale food purchases) and the Local Food Purchase Assistance

program (LFPA25) mean fewer resources are flowing to food banks like ours. But while these federal cuts are devastating, we know that solutions are within our reach. Here in Oregon, we have the power to take action. We can tell our federal leaders that food is a human right. We can ask our state legislators to pass Food for All Oregonians (SB 611). And we can push for policies that don't just provide food today but address the root causes of hunger — low wages, skyrocketing housing costs and other barriers that keep people in poverty.

This work is not easy, but when we show up for one another, we build the kind of future we all deserve — one where hunger is a thing of the past.

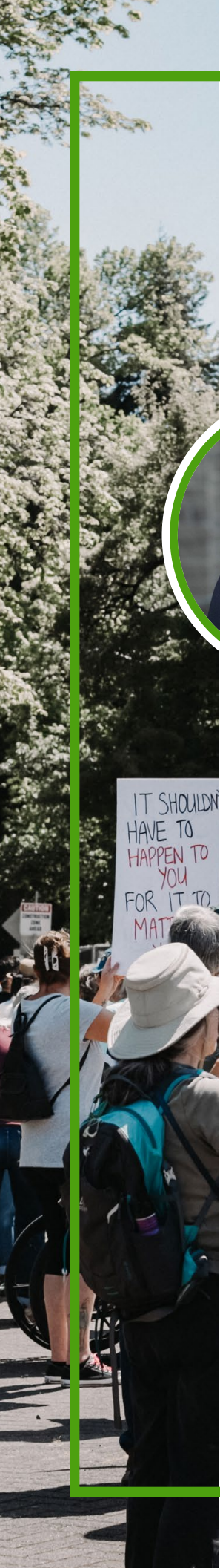
Join us. Show up. Take action. Because that's who we are as Oregonians.

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "A2. Williams".

Andrea Williams

President, Oregon Food Bank



Hundreds urge lawmakers to **pass Food for All Oregonians bill**

More than 250 advocates, community members and coalition partners from across Oregon gathered at the Oregon State Capitol on March 18 for the largest Advocacy Day since the pandemic. They came to urge lawmakers to pass Senate Bill 611 (Food for All Oregonians), meeting with 51 legislators to push for the critical bipartisan legislation that would ensure food justice for more Oregonians — including immigrants and refugees.

Food for All Oregonians would mirror the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), making food assistance available to young children

excluded from the federal program because of immigration status.

“Oregon has long been a place where we care for our neighbors and step up to meet big challenges,” said Sen. Winsvey Campos, D-Aloha. “Food for All Oregonians is a chance for us to live out those values — ensuring that every child and every family has access to the food they need. I’m proud to join advocates across the state in making this vision a reality.”

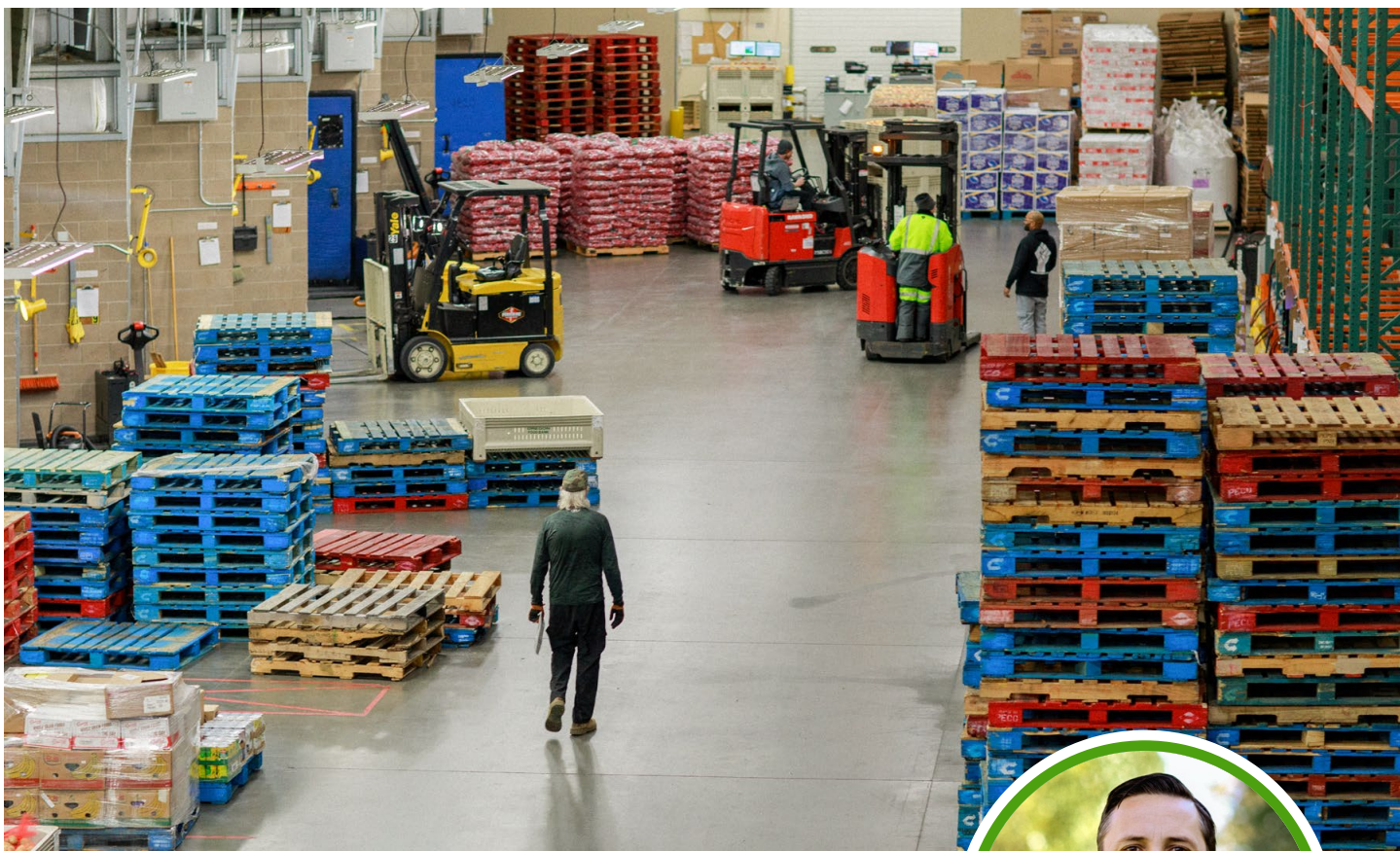
Read more at OregonFoodBank.org/AdvocacyDay ✨



Food for All Oregonians advocates at the Capitol on March 18, preparing to meet with legislators

Mid-session update: **Let's get our priorities across the finish line**

Hunger is rising, and federal support is uncertain, so Oregon lawmakers must act. From supporting school meals to farmworker relief to Food for All Oregonians, we're pushing bold solutions this session. Catch up on where key bills stand and how you can help move them forward in our mid-session update. Read more at OregonFoodBank.org/MidSession ✨



The OFB statewide warehouse in Portland. Before Danny became vice president, he served as director of operations for the food bank.

Meet our new vice president

We are excited to announce Danny Faccinetti as the new vice president of Oregon Food Bank. He succeeds Andrea Williams, who was named Oregon Food Bank president in December 2024.

Danny's work in hunger relief began at the Linnton Community Center, where he led programming, including a weekly food distribution, for more than a decade. There, he gained insight into the inner workings of food distribution and became familiar with Oregon Food Bank as one of 1,200+ partner agencies across the region. Since joining Oregon Food Bank in 2016, Danny has served in many roles.

"Working with our partners, I've seen the transformative nature of food banking," Danny said. "I believe in what we're doing. We serve the entire state and Southwest Washington, which is a super diverse place, and we have partners all over the region. We

have the luxury of being connected to different parts of the community. That's what gives us the potential for long-term success."

As vice president, Danny will work closely with Oregon Food Bank President Andrea Williams. He will also support staff and increase collaboration as the organization adapts and responds to the growing hunger crisis.

"There are a lot of negative narratives out there that create us-versus-them thinking," Danny said. "We have an opportunity to erode that. There are real differences in people's thinking about hunger relief efforts. But there are also values that connect people around the root causes of hunger that I think can transcend that. We have the opportunity to build a movement that is broad and bipartisan." Read more at OregonFoodBank.org/Danny ✨

More federal funding cuts?

When the U.S. Department of Agriculture canceled 30 truckloads of food bound for Oregon this April, local food assistance sites lost 1.4 million pounds of food — supplies meant for people already facing food insecurity. And now, Congress is considering even deeper cuts to core safety net programs like SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, formerly known as food stamps), school meals,

health insurance and housing assistance. Why take food and healthcare away from people who are already struggling?

We're calling on Oregon's Congressional delegation to reject these harmful proposals — and instead advance policies ensuring that everyone's basic needs are met.



You can help. Use our quick tool to contact your U.S. Senators and Representatives and urge them to protect vital programs. Stand up for your fellow Oregonians at OregonFoodBank.org/FederalCuts ✨

OFB president addresses lawmakers on hunger crisis

Oregon Food Bank President Andrea Williams gave her first State of Hunger address on January 27. From the steps of the Oregon Capitol, she shared new data and urged lawmakers to pass the Food for All Oregonians bill (SB 611). Here's an excerpt from her speech:

Today in Oregon, 1 in 8 people experience hunger and 1 in 6 kids don't have enough to eat. Last year, our network saw 2.5 million visits to food assistance sites across Oregon — a 31% increase from the previous year.

While our network sourced and distributed over 91 million meals, we've learned that it's not enough. Food alone cannot solve hunger.

We also must address the root causes of hunger — the systems and policies that keep people from having access to the resources they need to thrive.

Read more and watch Andrea's address at OregonFoodBank.org/StateOfHunger2025 ✨



OFB President Andrea Williams speaking from the Capitol steps in January

Deep gratitude to our partners in ending hunger!



Applied Materials' Fight Against Hunger campaign unites employees annually to raise funds for local food banks. The contributions support over 52 food banks in the USA and Canada.



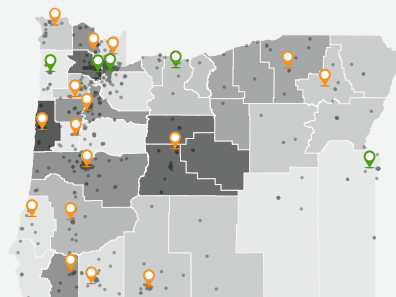
We are so grateful to **The Four Graces Winery** for supporting Oregon Food Bank with their Grace Every Table program that helped Oregon families experiencing hunger during the holiday season in 2024.



Oregon Tuna Classic is celebrating 20 years of commitment to providing nourishing food that feels like home to our communities, raising critical funds to ensure food access across Oregon, and building strong partnerships to end hunger for good. We are incredibly grateful for this ongoing community event every August in Garibaldi!

BMW Constructors Philanthropic Fund, a fund of The Indianapolis Foundation • Buckeye Pacific, LLC • Cambia Health Solutions • Charter Mechanical Contractors • City of Hillsboro • Columbia Distributing Company • Feeding America • Feeding America, thanks to C&S Wholesale Grocers • Feeding America, thanks to Coca-Cola • Feeding America, thanks to Dole • Feeding America, thanks to Ferrara • Fred Meyer Beaverton (Walker Rd) • Google • Holman Enterprises • Intel Corporation • Kaiser Permanente • Lam Research Corporation • Lazarus Naturals • Lightspeed Technologies, Inc. • Microsoft Corporation • Multnomah County • NIKE, Inc. • NVIDIA Corporation • OCF Joseph E. Weston Public Foundation • Olseth Family Foundation • Oregon DHS • Portland Children's Levy • Portland General Electric • Rose E. Tucker Charitable Trust • Straightaway Cocktails • Tektronix, Inc. • The Harris Family Foundation • The Jackson Foundation • The Kroger Co. Zero Hunger | Zero Waste Foundation • The Rosebraugh Charitable Trust • The Schooner Restaurant & Lounge • The Standard • Vitamin Cottage Natural Food Markets, Inc. • Walsh Construction Company • Zera Foundation •

Food is available to all who need it



Our network includes 1,200+ free food markets, pantries and meal sites throughout Oregon and Southwest Washington — and many locations offer contactless pickup or delivery options.

Food is available to those who need it — and no one in our network will ask you to show proof of gender identity or immigration status. Ever.

Find food assistance sites near you at **OregonFoodFinder.org** — now available in 19 languages commonly spoken in the Pacific Northwest.



OregonFoodBank.org
503-282-0555



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