

FOOD MATTERS!

WINTER 2024



Bringing native plants **back home**

As a descendent of the Yakama Nation and the fifth great-grandson of Chief Owhi – one of the signers of the Treaty of 1855 – Duane Lane understands the connection between colonization and hunger in

Indigenous communities. Duane named his business 1855 Plants in part to recognize the year settlers stole the land where the 14 tribes that now make up the Yakama Nation lived for thousands of years.

Today, 1855 Plants raises plants using traditional, sustainable methods and advises individuals and organizations interested in integrating native plants into their landscaping.

As a member of Oregon Food Bank's Food Systems Ambassador program, Duane is already helping to increase food security across Oregon.

Read more about Duane and 1855 Plants at OregonFoodBank.org/Duane ✨

"Indigenous communities are original caretakers of the area. But with constant expansion of our urban environments, it's becoming harder and harder for the Native community to access native plants and First Foods."

– **DUANE LANE**
Founder of 1855 Plants and
OFB Food Systems Ambassador

Embracing change

I, Susannah, am leaving Oregon Food Bank and Oregon altogether so my wife can pursue her dream job in Pennsylvania. My last day will be December 13, 2024. *And I, Andrea, will take the baton as Oregon Food Bank's next president.*



Andrea and Susannah at the 2024 Bloom gala

Luckily, this tale of two presidents will be brief, gentle and refreshingly drama-free. Because we have been working together for three years, since Andrea joined Oregon Food Bank as vice president. And because we adore and admire each other deeply.

At Oregon Food Bank, the president's role is externally focused — on our donor community, our Oregon and Southwest Washington partners, public relations and advocacy. The vice president role is more internally focused — on staff development, policies and processes and organization-wide projects like planning and budgets. Together, we jointly supervise Oregon Food Bank's outstanding department directors.

In these roles, we have been working hand in hand. We share insights and frequently step in to perform one another's roles — to share the workload or to support each other in taking family time. We have been each other's primary advisor and support. And most of the time we have made decisions jointly.

Oregon Food Bank remains deeply committed to supporting communities disproportionately affected by hunger. Andrea will be Oregon Food Bank's first leader of color, bringing a wealth of experience and a strong commitment to equity — including her leadership in immigrant justice advocacy and her ability to connect with Spanish-speaking communities.

Our priority is to ensure a seamless transition, and we will stay closely connected. We are counting on you to support Andrea as you have supported Susannah!

With gratitude,
Susannah Morgan and Andrea Williams

Read more at OregonFoodBank.org/Andrea



Angelica Cortes at a meeting of the OFB Policy Leadership Council

Putting equity front and center

We know that no single experience of hunger is the same. Where we live, which identities we hold, our family and generational history, whether we are parents or caregivers – these factors all shape our relationship to hunger and food access.

Those of us who are gender expansive, single mothers, immigrants and/or people of color face some of the highest rates of hunger and the greatest barriers to accessing food assistance and making ends meet. That's why we focus our anti-hunger efforts on these four communities.

Systemic injustices like racism, sexism, inaccessible child care and xenophobia create and perpetuate poverty and hunger. Stigma, discrimination and fear make people less likely to access food benefits such as SNAP (aka food stamps) and food pantries.

By centering these communities, we move closer to an equitable society – one in which everyone receives the resources, knowledge and support they need to thrive.

Learn more about our equity constituencies at OregonFoodBank.org/EquityConstituencies ✨

Introducing our 2024 Give!Guide partners

We're excited to welcome **Mainspring** and the **Family Justice Center** as OFB's Give!Guide partners this year. These incredible organizations work tirelessly year-round to combat the root causes of hunger – and now it's time to celebrate them. Support their vital programs by visiting their Give!Guide pages today! ✨



OregonFoodBank.org/Mainspring



OregonFoodBank.org/FamilyJusticeCenter

Michelle Week on her farm, ʔast s̓qit (Good Rain Farm)



Reimagining our food system **from the ground up**

Small agriculture can help alleviate hunger, but small farmers – especially those in Black, Indigenous, Latine and other communities of color – face structural barriers to building a business. To reverse the effects of our country’s history of colonization and racism, we must reimagine our entire food system from the ground up.

With support from Oregon Food Bank’s Community Producer Support program, Michelle Week is doing just that. As the founder of ʔast s̓qit, Good Rain Farm, in the Northern Willamette Valley, Michelle plans to “make sure everyone gets fed” by bringing First Foods back to dinner plates, treating the soil with reverence

and passing something on to the next generation of farmers in her tribe. (First Foods are the more than 300 foods that were staples of Indigenous diets and medicine in the Pacific Northwest before colonization.)

“I’m just really excited to keep growing food for people and feeding my community. Bringing Indigenous First Foods back to dinner plates really elicits a lot of appreciation and joy from our CSA members,” Michelle said.

Read our full Q&A with Michelle Week and our Rooted + Rising wins for the year at OregonFoodBank.org/Rooted+Rising2024 ✨

Tending to farmworkers

"Everybody has the right to food, whatever their immigration status. It's not something extra that I need to be successful. Oregon has the resources. And we can help everybody. So why not help everybody?"

— Eman Abbas, Oregon Food Bank Ambassador

Across the country, migrant farmworkers harvest the foods that fill the plates of millions of Americans. Yet the very people who feed the rest of the country face barriers to feeding themselves and their families.

In the Columbia River Gorge, as the cherry harvest begins in late spring, the Columbia Gorge Food Bank partners with the Resources Available for Migrant Access to Services (RAMAS) to help meet the needs of the arriving migrant farmworkers and their families. A coalition of local community partners provides services ranging from education to health screenings for children.

Bilingual volunteers are on hand to create a welcoming and comfortable environment. And this



Migrant farmworkers in the field

year, volunteers packed and distributed 360 food boxes in Wasco County, totaling more than 14,000 pounds of food.

Learn more at OregonFoodBank.org/RAMAS ✨

You showed up for Hunger Action Month

This September, Oregon Food Bank communities came together for Hunger Action Month, a nationwide effort to mobilize communities to help end hunger for good. In an incredible show of solidarity, you and other community members volunteered,

advocated and donated to build a brighter future for Oregon and Southwest Washington families.

We are eternally grateful. Thank you! Get involved at FoodForAllOR.org ✨

1600+

More than 1,600 individuals completed more than 7,300 volunteer hours.

1500+

More than 1,500 of you donated to help end hunger and its root causes.

700+

More than 700 new members pledged support for Food for All Oregonians, a community-led campaign to address the gaps in our system that leave more than 62,000 people facing food insecurity and ensure everyone in Oregon can access the food they need.



An OFB Food Systems Ambassador showing off produce from his garden

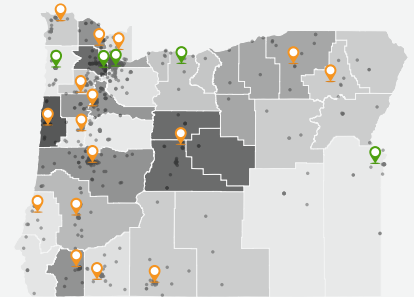
Thank you for your support



Thank you to CoreGiving, a 501(c)(3) organization established to fight childhood hunger across the United States. It works closely with Blackstone portfolio companies and hunger-relief organizations, including Oregon Food Bank, to fulfill its mission.

Lamb Weston Foundation • Market of Choice • Multnomah County • Nike • Portland Children’s Levy • Safeway Albertsons • The Standard • Walmart’s Fight Hunger. Spark Change. • Western Partitions, Inc.

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 pickup or delivery options.

If you or someone you know needs support, know that resources are available to help families with the rising cost of food and housing.

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



OregonFoodBank.org
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