

FOOD MATTERS!



WINTER 2025



ABOVE: volunteers at AntFarm Youth Services in Estacada working to repack fresh foods for Nuevo Futuro's distribution event. RIGHT: Liliana Beltran Torres



Nuevo Futuro: **nourishing Oregon's families**

In Estacada, Oregon, Latine families enjoy gathering around traditional dishes that taste like home. And now, more families can access the ingredients for their favorite dishes twice a month, thanks to the Nuevo Futuro food distribution program. As part of a pilot project with Oregon Food Bank, the program offers everything from fresh watermelon to maseca.

"Families can use maseca [corn masa flour] to make tamales, a deeply traditional dish in our culture, as well as tortillas," said Liliana Beltran Torres, a food distribution coordinator and community health worker.

Nuevo Futuro provides more than food. "Nuevo Futuro empowers Latino families by providing information to help them find new opportunities," Liliana explained, citing health workshops and English lessons.

AntFarm is part of Oregon Food Bank's Pathway to Partner Agency program, which provides resources and coaching so local groups can thrive on their own.

Read more about Liliana's work at AntFarm / Nuevo Futuro at OregonFoodBank.org/Liliana ✨

Oregonians deserve better choices



This fall, I volunteered alongside our leadership team at Northeast Emergency Food Program, one of our incredible partner agencies. It offers self-service shopping, where guests can choose groceries they want, such as fresh fruits and vegetables, dairy and proteins.

I talked with parents and elders while they shopped, and I felt proud to be part of a network that provides spaces for families to feed themselves with dignity. Yet for too many families, it's getting harder to put food on the table. Rising costs and shrinking social safety nets mean parents are forced to choose between paying for housing or groceries, utilities or medicine.

But we know that hunger isn't a personal failure; it's a policy choice.

Unfortunately, recent policy choices are moving us backward. The decisions our elected officials make – about wages, food assistance, healthcare – determine who can and who can't afford the basics. This summer, Congress passed the largest cut to SNAP

in history, and earlier federal cuts took away millions of dollars in food and funding for food banks and local farmers. At the state level, Oregon lawmakers failed to pass vital policies like Food for All Oregonians and School Meals for All that would have helped kids access food.

Despite these harmful choices, I find hope in our network of partners and supporters like you. Hunger is a policy choice – and that means we can change it.

Together, we're advocating for long-term solutions while ensuring every Oregonian can access nourishing food today. In the pages that follow, you'll find more stories about how our network supports communities across the state.

As we enter this season of giving, I hope you'll consider a gift to ensure all Oregon families have the food we need to thrive.

Gratefully,

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

Andrea Williams

Oregon Food Bank President

How you showed up: Hunger Action Month

Oregon Food Bank communities joined forces in September for Hunger Action Month, a nationwide effort to help end hunger for good. You and other community members volunteered, advocated and donated to ensure a brighter future for Oregon and Southwest Washington families.

We are grateful for this show of solidarity. Thank you!

Sign the pledge today!

OregonFoodBank.org/BetterPolicy ✨



1,500+

More than 1,500 individuals completed more than 6,000 volunteer hours.

1,100+

More than 1,100 of you donated to help end hunger and its root causes, raising \$159,929.

673

Nearly 700 people advocated for ending hunger – declaring that hunger is a policy choice.



Investing in local solutions

When FOOD For Lane County's Youth Farm was about to lose its land, the community risked losing both fresh food and educational opportunities for young farmers. Oregon Food Bank was there to help, facilitating state funding and private donations to help the organization purchase a 25-acre piece of land to keep the Youth Farm running. Read more at **OregonFoodBank.org/FoodForLaneCounty ✨**



A child holding Oregon's SNAP card, a program that will see new limits due to H.R. 1

What the **historic federal budget cuts** mean for Oregon

Beginning this fall, changes to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) under H.R.1 could affect more than 313,000 Oregonians by reducing benefits or ending eligibility for many households, while increasing pressure on food banks across the state. These cuts take food, health care and other basics from families who are already struggling, while giving tax breaks to the ultra-wealthy and increasing funding to ICE.

Here's what the new law means for Oregon:

THOUSANDS OF LEGAL IMMIGRANTS WILL LOSE SNAP

About 1,000 refugees, asylees and certain other immigrants who applied for or renewed benefits between July 4 and October 1 will lose their SNAP entirely on October 31. Another 2,000 immigrants will lose their SNAP entirely when they renew over the next year.

NEW LIMITS ON SNAP

About 310,000 adults statewide will be newly subject to the "time limit," meaning they may only receive benefits for three months unless they meet additional requirements. Beginning October 1, adults ages 18 to 64 without children under 14 in Multnomah, Washington, Clackamas, Yamhill, Benton and Hood River counties will be reviewed at application or renewal to see if they are subject to the time limit. The time limit will then expand to all counties on November 1.

CUTS TO HOUSEHOLDS RECEIVING ENERGY BENEFITS

About 9,600 households that applied for or renewed benefits between July 4 and October 1 will have their benefits reduced on November 1. An additional 20,000 households will see benefits reduced when they renew over the next year.

Read more at OregonFoodBank.org/HR1impact ✳

The single mom perspective

It sounds simple, but sitting down to eat good food with people you love is a beautiful, basic human experience that everyone deserves.

“As a single mom, I know how much love and care goes into every meal we share – and how incredibly heavy the burden feels when you’re unsure if you’ll have enough to feed your kids,” said single mom and anti-hunger policy advocate Natalie Kiyah. “But I know that being food insecure was never my fault or failure, it’s a policy failure. We need laws that end hunger, not cause it.”

Her story is part of a bigger picture. Today, one in eight people in Oregon experience hunger and one in six kids don’t have enough to eat. Last year, Oregonians visited food assistance sites 2.5 million times – a 31% increase from the previous year. And it’s only going to get worse, thanks to federal spending cuts and state inaction.

But we don’t have to accept bad policy choices in silence. Together, we can push for laws that end hunger – not cause it. Read more and take action at OregonFoodBank.org/Natalie ✨



“Food is a basic need – not a privilege based on who you are or where you’re from or what your marital status is.”

—NATALIE KIYAH,
Anti-Hunger Advocate

Natalie with two of her children at a Food for All Oregonians event in Salem

Highlighting our 2025 Give!Guide partners

We are honored to collaborate with **IRCO** and **Somali Oregon Service Center** as Oregon Food Bank’s Give!Guide partners this year. These incredible organizations are committed to transforming the lives of our equity constituencies, specifically the immigrant and refugee communities. Now more than ever, it is time to uplift them! Support their programs crucial to ending hunger by making a difference today – donate, volunteer and advocate! ✨



OregonFoodBank.org/SOSC



OregonFoodBank.org/IRCO



Deep gratitude to our partners in ending hunger!



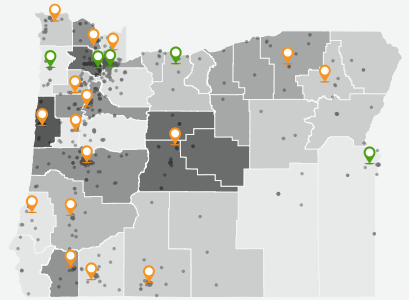
Oregon Food Bank extends its profound appreciation to **Pastini** for their invaluable support during Hunger Action Month. Their contributions in September significantly helped us raise awareness about the true story of hunger in our community and inspired individuals to get involved. Thank you for partnering with our Conversation Starters program and for joining us to make a difference!



At **Vista**, we believe everyone deserves access to nourishing food. This past September, we were proud to partner with Oregon Food Bank during Hunger Action Month — and we remain committed year-round to fighting hunger and strengthening our community.

Bank of America • Constellation Brands, Inc. • CoreGiving • Eastern Oregon Coordinated Care Organization • Enterprise Mobility Foundation • Feeding America • Maybelle Clark Macdonald Fund • Multnomah County • New Seasons Market • Portland Children's Levy • Roundhouse Foundation • Safeway Albertsons • TEGNA / KGW • The Alberta S. Kimball - Mary L. Anhaltzer Foundation • The Macauley Foundation • USDA Rural Development, Oregon State Office • Western Partitions, Inc. • William G. Gilmore 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



@oregonfoodbank