



Everybody Eats!

Regional Food Bank serving Linn & Benton counties since 1981

Winter 2020
Linn Benton
Food Share



Upper left: South Corvallis Food Bank, Lower left: LBFS Warehouse, Center: OSU Squash Glean,
Upper right: LBFS Warehouse, Lower right: Anderson Blueberry Glean

Gratitude

First and foremost: a note of gratitude to the thousands of folks involved in the success of LBFS.

From financial donors to local pantry volunteers, Linn Benton Food Share continues our mission due to your dedication to make a better community for all. And our mission is more than simply distributing food.

Our programs and partners change lives for the better.

- Gleaning programs that empower low-income individuals to take leadership roles in our community.
- Mobile pantry projects that reach out to underserved populations and bring access to other resources.
- Support for local farmers to enhance community food security for all and increase the nutritional options for food bank recipients.

- Providing monthly food and on-going social interaction to low-income, isolated seniors.
- Linkages to other local services programs and providers.

Efficiency and effectiveness are the measurement of programming at LBFS. The combination of your support with the needs of vulnerable populations served confers upon Linn Benton Food Share an obligation to achieve the absolute most good with each contribution – be it monetary or volunteer time.

Thank you for your continued trust in our ability to serve the community.

Ryan McCambridge
Director, Linn Benton Food Share



4 ways to help your neighbors

Donate

For every \$6 donation, LBFS can distribute enough food for 36 nutritious meals.

Shop

Use a scan coupon at Market of Choice.
Go to fredmeyer.com/communityrewards & link your rewards card to LBFS.

Join the Amazon Smile program and select LBFS as your beneficiary.

Grow

Grow an extra row in your garden and donate the produce to LBFS or one of our partner agencies.

Volunteer

Contact us to learn how you can help 541-758-2609

Rising Challenges

2019 has been a whirlwind of a year at Linn Benton Food Share. Significant changes to traditional sources of food are forcing substantial changes to the charitable food sector. For every positive factor affecting food insecurity and hunger, there is a seeming endless supply of negative offsets.

Encouraging economic news and low unemployment rates have led to statistically significant drops in hunger and food insecurity in Oregon as measured by USDA. This is something to celebrate! Yet, in the next breath we are confronted by the sobering service numbers in our two-county region. From July to October 2019, *LBFS emergency food pantries distributed 16,138 emergency food boxes, a 16.1% increase* over the same period during the 2009 financial crisis.

There are common threads to the need for food help – rising housing costs, chronic illness (which impacts not only the individual afflicted but the entire caregiver network and family members), lack of medical insurance, debt, low wages relative to the cost of living, seniors on fixed incomes.

Add to the list of reasons for rising emergency food bank use are proposed rule changes to federal safety net programs, most notably SNAP (formerly food stamps) that would have the effect of reducing or eliminating benefits to individuals and families.



LBFS Warehouse



South Corvallis Food Pantry Volunteer

Changes to the food stamp program have a double impact on food banks. Reductions in federal help cause families already accessing charitable systems to potentially increase their use of local systems and can push families that previously did not need to access emergency food into that very situation.

Food Supply Decline

Food banking in the US emerged out of the severe recession of the early 1980s. Government response at the time unleashed on local communities 5-pound blocks of cheese and butter delivered in semi-trucks and distributed at parking lots. (To this day, we still get positive comments on the cheese).

From this beginning, the modern food banking industry emerged, becoming much more sophisticated and better equipped along the way. As government commodity support began to wind down in the late 1980s, food banks looked to the next vein of food resource to mine.

The early 90’s food industry was figuratively, ripe for the picking. Just in time delivery was only a concept then. Label printing mistakes and a less than sophisticated approach to market development for new products were some reasons for large corporate donations to food banks. Computer technology and better production methods were still in the future.

The 1990s also saw Congress pass the Bill Emerson Good Samaritan law granting corporations legal protection for donating “apparently wholesome” product to food banks. The flood gates were opened. (It should be noted that although the pounds of food during this period were impressive, the actual

nutritional quality, to be kind, was less than ideal – *although who doesn’t love a Snickers bar!*

Progressing into the 1990s the food industry experienced revolutionary innovations, including computer technology that drastically improved efficiency in production and logistics as well as the rise of secondary grocery outlets. The former reduced the overproduction that food banks had come to rely upon. The latter began to gobble up the remaining inventories that were previously donated and now could generate revenue for food manufacturers and businesses.

Reductions in large corporate donations to food banks have continued over time. What was once a river of shelf stable products is down to a mere trickle. Luckily, Linn Benton Food Share has the good fortunate of having a large distribution center in our service area that still donates shelf-stable goods. It truly is a blessing.

In the 2000s, the next great source of food was at the retail level (a strategy harkening back to the very first efforts of food banking in the 1960s). Grocers across the country have always had a level of “shrink” or waste due to perishability or cosmetic damage. With US consumers conditioned to “perfect” produce, stores would dispose of good, safe food including dairy, meats, produce, and other items.

In Oregon, Fresh Alliance emerged as a statewide program for local food banks to access this food type, reducing waste and feeding those in need at the same time.

Early returns produced a windfall for food banks across the state. Stunning



Produce from Fresh Alliance

amounts of food were being donated at rates that came close to overwhelming. Fresh Alliance also provided stores a truer picture of their waste stream, what departments were consistent donors and where internal processes could be improved.

Increasing Fresh Alliance store participation was a priority throughout the first decade of the 2000s. Currently, Linn Benton Food Share partners with all major grocers in our service area, recovering over 50,000 pounds of food each month.

However, in its second decade of existence, Fresh Alliance is a fully mature donation source. As a result of Fresh Alliance reporting to stores and corporate sustainability efforts, donations are on a slow, steady decline.

Other factors impacting corporate and store donations: the rise of on-line grocery shopping, club card data providing customer preference (and thus, better ordering by stores), shifting consumer preference for pre-made (fresh or frozen) meals rather than canned and staple foods for scratch cooking.

Food industry changes continue on the processing front. Industry consolidation has left Oregon with only one medium-scale canning operation left in the state. Furthermore, the Food Safety and Modernization Act passed by Congress placing new rules on traceability of food product has had a chilling effect on donations from food processors to local charities, even though we observe the highest food safety protocols.

All these changes pose a significant challenge to the traditional ways of distributing product through the emergency food network, a network whose infrastructure was based on shelf-stable goods and limited hours of operation due to volunteer capacity at the local pantry level.

As we move to a greater percentage of fresh product making up total volume distributed, this also limits client access to their at-home storage or ability to consume the food before spoilage.

Continued on back



Become a Food Share Champion

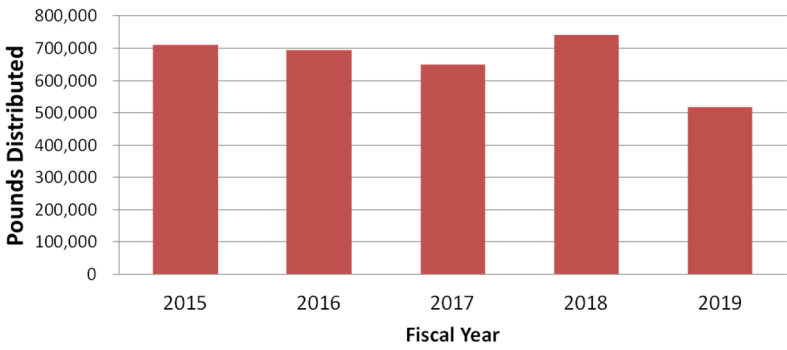
Take your commitment to the next level and sign up to become a Food Share Champion! Gain a deeper understanding of food insecurity and poverty. Learn about your role in solutions.

For more information please contact us
541-758-2609 or [email: info@linnbentonfoodshare.org](mailto:info@linnbentonfoodshare.org)

Ask how you can support Linn Benton Food Share at your work, in your neighborhood and in your community.



Donated Shelf Stable Pounds Distributed
July to November - Fiscal Year



Partnership in Action

Linn Benton Food Share recently expanded our supplemental food partnership network. Supplemental food partners provide food as a component of their service to the community. It is through the vehicle of food that bring people – staff, volunteers and clients – closer to achieving a better community for all. The three newest partner agencies center on addressing housing insecurity and homelessness:

- The multi-agency Street Outreach & Resource Team (SORT) finds people in camps, living in their cars or sleeping on the streets. Offering nutritious snacks and ready-to-eat food helps SORT team members build the trust needed to begin connecting people to additional resources.
- Corvallis Daytime Drop-In Center provides a safe, welcoming place for people to go during the day to

relax from the stresses of not having a place to call home. People find healthy snacks, conversations with friends, and folks ready to connect them to those important resources.

- Corvallis Housing First provides housing and other support services to people transitioning from shelter stays to more permanent housing. In addition to case management support, people receive a “Welcome Box” of shelf-stable food ready for their new home.

Partnerships like these allow Linn Benton Food Share to support programs beyond food distribution and achieve transformational change for our communities. We are honored to work together with our partner network to improve lives for all residents in Linn and Benton counties.

Rising Challenges (cont.)

In response to necessity, food pantries are now open for longer hours and more days to manage this issue. The advantage has been greater community access and serving previously unmet need. The challenge, of course, is the wear and tear on a declining volunteer base.

Responses and Solutions

The abundance of fresh produce, especially crops grown in Oregon, has inspired new programming for partner agencies and enhanced LBFS direct service projects.

In the last three years LBFS has expanded our network partnerships with organization such as Samaritan Albany General Hospital and Samaritan Lebanon Community Hospital, Linn Benton Housing Authority, Corvallis School District, Corvallis Housing First and OSU Extension (with more in the works!).

LBFS, through our network, helps everyone in our community: home-

less, veterans, families with kids, and seniors with the basic ingredients of food and kindness.

All told, LBFS helped over 20,000 unique individuals each month last year through our dedicated emergency food pantry, meal site, gleaning group and supplemental partners.

In order to meet the needs of our varied client base, LBFS strives to maintain food inventory that is aligned with client capacity and nutritional goals.

The challenges to this variety are clear. This is a logistical challenge - that with your help, can be addressed.



South Corvallis Food Pantry

Your financial help allows LBFS to assess and strategically purchase shelf stable food and other goods to address some of the shortfalls chronicled.

This enables families seeking food help to choose the variety of foods that will be most helpful for their particular situation. The net effect is client empowerment to choose, volunteer satisfaction in the quality of food being offered and a pervading sense of kindness and support. This stability being offered is crucial to both short and long term prospects for the household.

This is the impact of our work that truly matters, going beyond a single can of green beans. It is the representation of human dignity and worth that every volunteer carries throughout the day; it is the fuel that drives action to building a better community for all through kindness and compassion. That is the purpose of Linn Benton Food Share. We welcome you to make it your purpose too.

CONTACT US!

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LBFS Network Members

ALBANY

Albany Gleaners
Albany Helping Hands
Chamberlin House
Community Gleaners
Family Tree Relief Nursery
Fish of Albany Pantry
JSYSI/Albany Youth Shelter
JSYSI/Youth Outreach Center
Mid Valley Gleaners
One II Another
Signs of Victory Pantry
Signs of Victory Shelter
St. Mary's Soup Kitchen
The Children's Place UPC
The Salvation Army Pantry

BROWNSVILLE

Sharing Hands Pantry

HALSEY

Pack Snack Backpack Program
Central Linn Gleaners

HARRISBURG

Harrisburg Harvesters

JEFFERSON

Jefferson Community Pantry

LEBANON

Caring Team Pantry
Fish of Lebanon Pantry
Lebanon Gleaners
Lebanon Schools Backpack Program
Lebanon Soup Kitchen
Real Bowls Real People
River Center Backpack Program
St Vincent de Paul Pantry
The Lords Storehouse Pantry

MILL CITY

Canyon Gleaners

SCIO

North Santiam Gleaners

SHEDD

PNW Adult & Teen Challenge

SWEET HOME

Fair Share Unlimited Gleaners
Hope Church Home Pantry
Kids Food Pack
Seventh Day Adventist Pantry
SHEM Food Bank
SHEM Manna Meal Program
Sweet Home Gleaners

ALSEA

Alsea Community Effort
Alsea Gleaners
Jeni's Place/Alsea Food Bank

CORVALLIS

CARDV
Community Outreach Inc
Corvallis Daytime Drop-In Center
Corvallis Family Table
Corvallis Housing First
Welcome Box
Corvallis Men's Shelter
CSC Youth Programs
Grace Center
HSRC Food Pantry at OSU
Jackson St Youth Services Inc
Janus House
Key Club Food Box Project
Mary's River Gleaners
Room at the Inn Shelter
SORT
South Corvallis Food Bank
St Vincent de Paul Pantry
SVDP at Garfield School
Stone Soup Corvallis Inc
Vina Moses

BLODGETT

Coastal Range Food Bank

MONROE

S Benton County Gleaners
S Benton Food Pantry
S Benton Nutrition Program

PHILOMATH

Neighbor to Neighbor
Philomath Gleaners
Philomath Food Bank
Strengthening Rural Families



LINN
BENTON