



# Everybody Eats!

Regional Food Bank serving Linn & Benton counties since 1981

**December 2021**  
**Linn Benton**  
**Food Share**



*Gleaners at Blueberry Meadows, Grampa's Farm, and the OSU Crop Farm*

## Food Share and COVID-19

As we close 2021 and approach the two-year mark of Covid-19 in our lives, moments of reflection reveal the importance of acting locally.

These local acts have a common trait: making things better for our neighbors no matter the challenge. It is a simple commitment, but one Linn Benton Food Share and our network of agencies embrace with full force.

In illustration of these local responses, LBFS has *added* several new agencies since March of 2020. These include Family Tree Relief Nursery (public meal site & meal delivery), Adair Village food pantry, 2<sup>nd</sup> Chance Shelter

(Albany), Pathfinder Clubhouse (Corvallis) and, most recently, partnering with the Boys & Girls Club of Corvallis to provide fresh produce and perishables to kids and families in need.

The addition of these agencies to the roster of the LBFS network ensures "everybody eats." The conditions under which our network has been able to offer services has been the most challenging in the history of food banking.

The Covid 19 pandemic necessitated significant changes to the emergency food system, particularly in the realms of food acquisition, distribution, and volunteer/client interactions.

Our network had been building for years on the concept of "shopping style" pantries, where clients choose foods most relevant for their circumstance. Covid 19 changed all of that, forcing our network to revert to premade boxes using a drive-thru distribution model.

Over the course of the last 18 months there

*I feel that we have become more unified as we work to protect one another.*

*Still, it is so hard to not be able to hug a client when he is suffering from a loss. -Sweet Home*

has been some return to in-person interactions and choice, but it is a shadow of its former self. Volunteers consistently comment how they miss the one-on-one opportunity to comfort those seeking assistance.

Covid 19 also meant the loss of benefit events – either food drives or fundraisers – that LBFS regularly counted on to keep pantries stocked with good food. However, our community of donors has been unwavering in this challenge.

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*We thought we were very prepared but Covid-19 is a phenomenon we certainly were not set up for.*

*Our entire process: Volunteer and customer management, distribution of foods, and even our ordering of food all had to change. -Blodgett*

## Food Share and COVID-19 (cont.)

The commitment of donors and agency volunteers kept our network of food pantries, gleaning groups and meal sites open during this time of crisis. This support allowed our agency network to adapt with phenomenal speed and resiliency.

LBFS also operates direct service programs for seniors and just-discharged, food-insecure hospital patients.

Through these programs, we have seen the isolating impact of Covid 19 on these exceptionally vulnerable populations.

*I believe we all learned  
we were tougher mentally than  
we thought we were. -Philomath*

A final note of thanks to our donors, volunteers, and network agency partners:

Your support and work in service of our neighbors encourages further acts of kindness, with each gesture adding to a better whole.

The commitment to act locally, in partnership with Linn Benton Food Share, ensures no goes hungry.

Thank You



Ryan McCambridge  
Director, Linn Benton Food Share

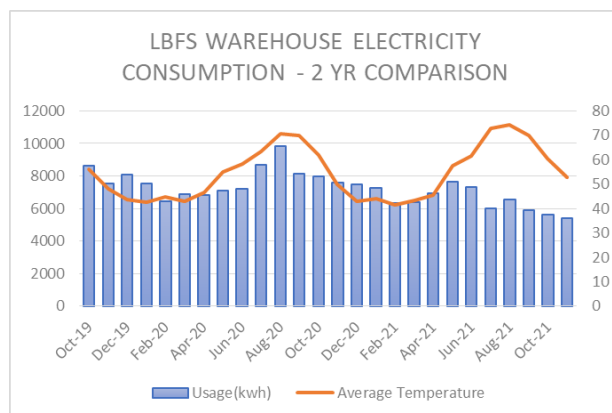


## Warehouse Investments

LBFS is pleased to announce a successful \$250,000 application for CARES ACT funding (CDBG) through Benton County!

Equipment purchases, *including an electric delivery vehicle*, will expand our ability to respond to the needs brought on by Covid-19.

**New freezer equipment saves energy!** LBFS completed installation of new refrigeration units in June 2021. These units have reduced the warehouse electricity usage rate by 33% per month!



## PARTNERSHIP HIGHLIGHT

LBFS and Linn Benton Housing Authority (LBHA) began partnering in 2016 through the commodity supplemental food program (CSFP). This program, funded by USDA, provides a once-a-month food box low-income seniors 55 and older.

LBHA, having several properties that housed this specific demographic, was a natural partner. In quick order, LBFS was able to add a fresh produce component to the food boxes, making for a farmer's market type of environment.

With this experience in mind, LBHA incorporated community gardens into the building design of Garden View apartments, a new apartment complex offering 48 units of affordable housing to low-income seniors in Lebanon, OR.

From the outset, Garden View apartments was "designed to support socially active aging in place." The community gardens on-site are the most visible indicator of this commitment to active living and community building.

LBFS distributes CSFP boxes to eligible residents at Garden View in addition to twice-a-month gardening instruction. The gardening education is headed up by CSC's Youth Garden Crew Leader, Vincent Drew, and his collection of enrolled youth students.

This effort illustrates that partnerships work, providing affordable housing, good nutrition, and community engagement under one roof.

## CONTACT US!

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NEW!

## LBFS By the Numbers: FY 2020-21

**4.4 million Pounds** of Food Distributed by Linn Benton Food Share to our 68-member network. (Equivalent to 116 semi-trucks).

**30%** of all pounds were fresh produce and perishables – an all-time high.

**2,700**

Number of unique donors supporting LBFS last year

**330,537**

Emergency Meals provided

**32,248**

Emergency Food Boxes Distributed

**6**

Number of Quality meals distributed for every \$1 donated to LBFS



For more on LBFS visit us online at

[linnbentonfoodshare.org](http://linnbentonfoodshare.org)