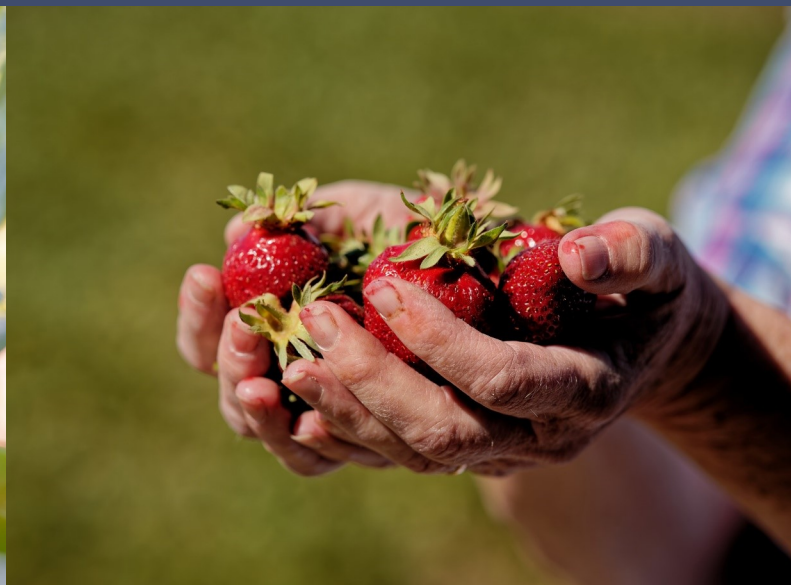




Everybody Eats!

December 2022
Linn Benton
Food Share

Regional Food Bank serving Linn & Benton counties since 1981



There is nothing new in saying that the past 12 months ushered in its own set of unique challenges.

Since 2020, “change” and “ability to adapt” have been the watchwords of current times. The ability to adapt swiftly, taking advantage of opportunities, is due to the fantastic support we receive from the local community.

The highlights below are testament to your continued faith in our program and the real impact brought about by your commitment to ending hunger.

LOCAL FOOD PRODUCTION

June 2022 marked the delivery of our first production run of “Soulful Soups,” a joint project between LBFS, Shepard of the Valley Church

Corvallis and Stahlbush Island Farms. Over three years in the making, the Soulful Soups project was born out of a need for highly nutritious, ready-to-eat meals for folks recently discharged from the hospital.

Nutritionists at Samaritan Albany General Hospital were finding an alarming number of patients returning to the hospital due to lack of adequate nutrition at home; their bodies simply couldn’t heal due to lack of food.

LBFS quickly took action to establish the **Start Health Accelerate Recovery** (SHARE) program. Food boxes go home with patients at discharge with LBFS staff delivering a bigger package, including the Soulful Soup product, one week later.

In delivering to patients at home, LBFS can bring information for other services that the household may benefit from. This includes rental assistance, utility assistance, weatherization and workforce training through Community Services Consortium.

The Soulful Soups project currently produces two flavors, chickpea/lentil and broccoli/tomato. Each type provides complex carbohydrates, high protein, low sodium soups from regional sources. The project came together out of a confluence of unique factors: A volunteer workforce at the church wanting to help the community, food development expertise within the church membership and the ability to source and can product through Stahlbush Island Farms.

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And since the project uses local agricultural products, volunteers, and a committed business in Stahlbush Island, we can keep the costs of production as low as possible. To date, the Soulful Soup project has distributed 2,660 units to 400 senior and Samaritan patient households.

LBFS WAREHOUSE SOLARIZATION

With the help of the Corvallis Sustainability Coalition and Oregon Clean Power Cooperative, LBFS is planning to solarize the LBFS warehouse. This project will produce enough renewable energy to power our large freezer and cooler units as well as our pending electric delivery truck. LBFS is committed to not only distributing food to all those in need but also completing our mission with as little impact on the environment as possible. The warehouse solarization project will save upwards of \$1,000 per month once completed. That savings can then be directed back into quality food acquisition and distribution.

Year to Date Service Statistics (Jan-Oct 2022)

- Emergency Food Boxes: 33,074 food boxes serving 94,319 individuals (duplicated) (38.7% increase over 2021)
- Emergency Meals provided: 260,982 (increase of 17.2% over 2021)
- 2022 Year to date food purchase spending: \$785,730
- 2021 food purchase spending: \$459,000

CONTACT US!

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LEBANON GLEANERS

Rita Wilson, Coordinator of Lebanon Gleaners, is on a mission to make sure that folks are fed, well cared for and happy. Under Rita's leadership, the group has nearly doubled in size, serving 205 individuals in the Lebanon area.



She loves seeing people's eyes light up when they come to pick from an array of fresh produce, frozen meats, and shelf stable goods. She is quick to point out that all this work is a testament to the determination of the entire group. "It's a team effort and I couldn't do it without help from the membership."

SOUTH BENTON Resource Center

In 2022 South Benton Food Bank purchased the former Methodist Church property that the food bank has utilized since the early 2000s.



In addition to supporting the daily efforts of the food pantry and gleaning program, the greater vision for the newly acquired building is for a comprehensive resource center.

Dubbed the Kepi Nak-Nak Resource Center, it will be at the heart of efforts to provide needed services to individuals and families.

- Dental van visits in partnership with Medical Teams International and Strengthening Rural Families
- Nutrition classes and cooking demonstrations through OSU Extension
- Upgrade the existing kitchen and dining room. Once completed, the Center will provide a community meal service.
- CARDV will establish regular monthly office hours for meeting with potential clients.
- Permanent home for South Benton Food Pantry and South Benton Gleaning group.