



Serving Oregon and
Clark County, WA

Mission:

To eliminate hunger and its root causes... because no one should be hungry

March 12, 2004

The Honorable Ted Kulongoski
Governor
State Capitol
Salem, OR 97310

Dear Governor Kulongoski,

Thank you for your recent mention of the hunger problem and Oregon Food Bank in your State of the State speech. Your advocacy on behalf of hungry Oregonians and the OFB network over the last year has produced some outstanding results. While it is difficult to capture all of the effects, I've gathered some highlights that I want to share with you. Responses to the Hunger Summit and subsequent public appeals included:

- ❖ \$17,000 raised by Summit attendee Hal Saltzman to ensure continuation of the Portland Public Schools Summer Food Program.
- ❖ \$10,000 gift to OFB from the Cow Creek Bank of the Umpqua Indians in March 2003, restricted by OFB for emergency grants to network agencies.
- ❖ New partnerships with Alberston's and Fred Meyer to recover high quality meat, dairy and other perishables. With this partnership OFB is now picking up product daily at 25 stores, averaging approximately 100,000 pounds of food each month since November. We expect to expand the Fresh Alliance program to 50 stores by June 2004, and to 80 stores by July 2005.
- ❖ Heightened awareness has also resulted in an increased interest in Board service at OFB and regional food banks. New to our board are executives from Albertson's, Fred Meyer, Safeway, Providence Medical Center and NW Natural.
- ❖ NW Natural's first-time bill stuffer in August 2003 has raised \$135,758 to date for OFB and regional food banks. In addition, NW Natural helped sponsor our highly successful new fall event, the Oregon Harvest dinner, with a gift to OFB of \$25,000. NW Natural also donated \$1,000 each to six regional food banks to sponsor local events in their communities.
- ❖ AT&T responded to your call to action with a gift of \$15,000 to help OFB purchase a large van to support our Learning Garden programs.
- ❖ Formation of the Oregon Faith Roundtable on Hunger in October 2003, that has rapidly grown and is making plans for a hunger forum in May 2004.

P.O. Box 55370
Portland, Oregon
97238-5370

ph 503.282.0555
fax 503.282.0922



- ❖ Oregon Commodity Commissions helped sponsor a successful donor open house and awards event at OFB in October 2003. In addition, we continue working to recover more “by-catch fish,” downed cattle, retired laying hens, fruits, nuts, potatoes and onions.
- ❖ Passage of the WIC & Senior Farmer’s Market bills, and the Parents as Scholars bill during the 2003 legislative session.
- ❖ In early March 2004 we received a grant of \$100,000 to be distributed to six regional food banks serving areas supported by the Cow Creek Band of the Umpqua Indians Foundation. OFB provided the Foundation with a list of businesses to challenge to match the grant when it is announced at the next Hunger Summit. OFB has already allocated \$50,000 in general fund donations to match the grant for regional food banks not funded by this or other foundation grants secured by OFB.
- ❖ We are now hearing daily from folks who have seen the PSAs you did for The Great Food Drive sponsored by KGW, Albertson’s and US Bank. With a million pound goal, this event is raising support locally throughout the OFB statewide network during the month of March.
- ❖ And of course, we cannot forget that these outstanding responses all began with \$5,000 and 2,000 pounds of food raised at your inaugural ball! Followed by you and legislators “bowling over hunger” during the session by raising \$10,090.
- ❖ While the results are still coming in for the 2004 Governor’s State Employees Food Drive, we have no doubt that your challenge and enthusiastic support will result in the equivalent of 3.7 million pounds of food or more as it did in 2003.

We are greatly blessed by your leadership on the hunger issue. And as our agencies report the average increase in requests for food is up 10% again this year, with many agencies seeing much higher increases, your leadership is more important than ever. Thank you, and your staff, for all that you have done on behalf of Oregonians in need. We look forward to continuing our work with you to fight hunger in Oregon.

Best regards,

Rachel Bristol
Executive Director

Jim Youde
OFB Board Chairman

CC: Stephen Schneider, Erinn Kelley-Seil, Mary Ellen Glynn, LW, JKW, BM, DA