



# ADVOCACY ALERT



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Oregon Food Bank  
Oregon Hunger Task Force

## Ending hunger in after-school settings

Many low-income children get a good meal at school, but what happens in the afternoon when school is over and parents are still working?

After-school programs are a great place for kids to go, to participate in a recreational activity or to get tutoring, and to interact with caring adults. But many children won't receive the full benefit because they are hungry.

The After School Meals and Snack Program (ASMSP) is a little-known resource that can offer a nutritionally balanced boost to kids in the afternoon.

ASMSP is federally funded and provides reimbursement for meals and snacks served through non-profit organizations, public entities, some for-profit entities, and tribal agencies located in areas

where 50 percent or more of the student body qualifies for free or reduced-price meals.

Last year, the ASMSP provided more than 1.2 million meals and snacks to after-school programs in Oregon, providing \$2.4 million to local sponsors. However, it is still vastly underutilized. Many after-school programs simply don't know about it.

Do you know of an after-school program that provides educational or enrichment activities in a safe, structured environment? The ASMSP could help provide a snack or supper to kids who may be arriving hungry.

For many after-school programs, the federal reimbursement not only provides nutrition to its participants, but also helps make their enrichment programs more effective and

successful. Kids are better able to concentrate when their stomachs are full and good nutrition helps their minds and bodies develop. ASMSP is good for children, good for after-school programs and good for local communities.

If you would like more information about ASMSP, contact Rick Freed at the Oregon Hunger Task Force at (503) 595-5501, ext. 6 or [rick@oregonhunger.org](mailto:rick@oregonhunger.org)

**TRAINING OPPORTUNITY:** The next training for new ASMSP sponsors is January 13, 2010 (there may be an earlier training date for school districts). For more information about qualifying for the ASMSP, or for starting or running the program, contact Darcy Miller at the Oregon Department of Education at 503-947-5899 or [darcy.miller@state.or.us](mailto:darcy.miller@state.or.us).

**take five**  
(actions that take five minutes or less)

### Message:

In order to grow, learn and thrive, Oregon's children need to be free from hunger. Federal child nutrition programs can help accomplish this by providing reliable access to good, nutritious food where kids live, learn and play. For more information please see article, help support child nutrition programs on the second page.

### Action:

Join an Oregon statewide coalition called *Feed Oregon Kids Today, Grow Leaders for Tomorrow* that is working to enhance and improve important child nutrition programs. Take five minutes and visit this site: <http://groups.google.com/group/OCNRC?hl=en> and go to the "files" section to find the form.



## Oregon Food Bank won the 'Courage Award' at The Bus Project's annual Wheelies Awards ceremony

The Bus Project, a statewide non-profit organization that promotes democracy and civic engagement, hosts an annual awards ceremony to recognize individuals and organizations who have gone to extraordinary ends to promote democracy and protect the common good. Gubernatorial candidates John Kitzhaber and Bill Bradbury were hosts of the evening and several legislators and community leaders were in attendance.

OFB won the award for our work on Measure 64, the 2008 ballot measure which would have dramatically reduced our ability to serve our clients by restricting fundraising activities on public property. OFB opposed the measure and encouraged our staff, volunteers and supporters to vote no. The campaign was closely contested but ultimately the measure was defeated. Thanks to everyone for your work on the campaign and for your courageous work to protect our right to serve those in need.

## Celebrate the harvest

Earlier this year, community members and city and county commissioners joined together to transform the Portland City Hall lawn and the Multnomah County Commission rooftop into vegetable gardens.

The garden harvests were donated to Elm Court – Loaves & Fishes, a senior meal center in downtown Portland and Oregon Food Bank member agency. Throughout the summer,

more than 1,200 pounds of nutritious fruits and vegetables supplemented the daily senior meals.

On October 6, Elm Court hosted a celebration lunch to recognize the many people that came together to make the gardens a reality. The menu highlighted garden produce delivered straight from Portland City Hall and Multnomah County Headquarters.

City and county commissioners, volunteers and more than 120 seniors enjoyed ratatouille with tomatoes and peppers, en croute with sauce, and roasted beet salad.

We look forward to more innovative partnerships with the city of Portland and Multnomah County in addressing hunger and food insecurity.

### Oregon Harvest Week—November 1-7

As part of the week's activities, Kevin Concannon, USDA Under Secretary for Food, Nutrition and Consumer Services and Alan Ng, Regional Administrator, USDA Western Regional Office, are flying to Portland to join Governor Kulongoski, state officials, program administrators and public policy advocates in a morning roundtable and an afternoon listening session on federal nutrition programs critical to addressing hunger in Oregon.

The Tuesday morning roundtable includes a Q & A session focused on child nutrition programs and is being held at the Parkrose Administration Building in Portland.

## Help support child nutrition programs

Each day in Oregon, hundreds of thousands of children live in poverty and go hungry. Hunger stifles these children's health, intellect, creativity, and capacity to learn and be at their best. Federal child nutrition programs—including the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), school lunch and breakfast, summer food, and other programs—provide invaluable support to feed children in Oregon.

We invite you and your organization to join an Oregon statewide coalition called *Feed Oregon Kids Today, Grow Leaders for Tomorrow* that is working to enhance and improve these important child nutrition programs during their upcoming reauthorization in Congress.

With President and Mrs. Obama's special interest in this issue we have a golden opportunity to make significant improvement to these programs, which are only reauthorized every five years.

Visit <http://tinyurl.com/feedkidsgrowleaders> to find information (click on "files") on the coalition's priorities, why child nutrition reauthorization is important to Oregon, and an endorsement form.

Please join us. Together, we can make a concrete difference in the lives of low-income children.

For more information, contact Jessica Chanay at [jessica@oregonhunger.org](mailto:jessica@oregonhunger.org) or Jeff Kleen, at [jkleen@oregonfoodbank.org](mailto:jkleen@oregonfoodbank.org).

See this month's take five.

Advocacy Alert is published jointly by Oregon Food Bank (OFB) and the Oregon Hunger Task Force (OHTF).

**OFB Advocacy Staff:**  
(503) 282-0555 [Portland area]  
1-800-777-7427 [outside Portland]

Jon Stubenvoll X206  
Jeff Kleen X204  
Tammy VanderWoude X230  
Stephanie Tama-Sweet X243  
David Osborn X267  
<http://www.oregonfoodbank.org>  
[advocacy@oregonfoodbank.org](mailto:advocacy@oregonfoodbank.org)

**OHTF Staff:**  
Patti Whitney-Wise  
[patti@oregonhunger.org](mailto:patti@oregonhunger.org)  
Nancy Weed  
[nancy@oregonhunger.org](mailto:nancy@oregonhunger.org)  
Jessica Chanay  
[jessica@oregonhunger.org](mailto:jessica@oregonhunger.org)  
Annie Kirschner  
[annie@oregonhunger.org](mailto:annie@oregonhunger.org)  
Rick Freed  
[rick@oregonhunger.org](mailto:rick@oregonhunger.org)  
<http://www.oregonhunger.org>  
503-595-5501



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### Legislative Yellow Pages

#### State Legislative Information

1-800-332-2313 (outside Salem) 503-986-1000 (in Salem)

<http://www.leg.state.or.us/citizenguide/>

#### Federal Legislative Contacts

Senator Merkley  
(503)326-3386  
Senator Wyden  
(503) 326-7525  
Rep. Wu (District 1)  
(503) 326-2901  
Rep. Walden (District 2)  
(541) 776-4646  
Rep. Blumenauer (District 3)  
(503) 231-2300  
Rep. DeFazio (District 4)  
(541) 465-6732  
Rep. Schrader (District 5)  
(503) 588-9100