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Ashland Emergency Food Bank Celebrates its 50th Year with a New Name and Updated Mission Statement.

Recognizing the ongoing community need, the Ashland Food Bank is changing its name. As of October 23, the organization, which serves over 1,200 community members experiencing hunger by providing over 55,000 pounds of food monthly, will celebrate with a new name: **Ashland Community Food Bank**.

“As our board reflected on 50 years of serving Ashland and Talent, we recognized that we’re able to meet food insecurity in our community because of the network of support and partnership we have in our community,” said Amey Broeker, the food bank’s executive director.

A coalition of churches started the food bank 50 years ago to support families and individuals who were in food crisis. Today, that support continues, alongside critical partners such as Food Angels, the Ashland Food Project, local grocers, generous residents, such funders as the Ashland Community Health Foundation, the Oregon Community Foundation, and over 11,000 hours of volunteer support annually.

For the past half-century, the food bank’s mission has remained constant. That is, to provide food, free of charge, to friends, family, and neighbors in greater Ashland and Talent. “It’s critical to serve in a way that is low-barrier, conveying kindness, respect, and dignity to those in need,” Broeker said.

Feeling a slight refresh was due, the food bank has updated its **Mission Statement**: “In solidarity with our community, the Ashland Community Food Bank sustainably provides food at no cost to all those in need living in Ashland and Talent, while increasing awareness of food insecurity. We serve all people with dignity.”

Naturally, over the span of 50 years, the organization has grown and developed. The food bank is a 501c3 non-profit organization, owns its own facility, has several satellite pantries, partners with other organizations to provide food to those experiencing hunger – and now the name reflects who they are, and what is important to them; they are the Ashland Community Food Bank.