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**NEWS RELEASE**  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## ACCESS collecting donations to stock food pantry shelves during Food for Hope food and fund drive

Medford, OR - November 17, 2021: ACCESS, Jackson County's Community Action nonprofit, is aiming to collect 10,000 pounds of food and \$30,000 to help support the ACCESS regional Food Bank. Now in its 38th year, Food for Hope is the largest annual community food and fund drive helping to fight hunger in Jackson County. Donations collected will stay local to help those facing food insecurity in our community.

"Historically, we have seen an increase in the need for food assistance over the holidays, and this year is no different", says Marcee Champion, ACCESS Food Programs Director. She adds, "Every year, we rely on donations from our community during the Grocery Bag Drive to help us meet the increased need".

Last year, ACCESS distributed 5.2 million pounds of food through the regional Food Bank to feed more than 44,000 people in Jackson County. Many factors, from the pandemic to the wildfire disasters have contributed to a greater need for food assistance in our area.

"With food prices increasing and the lingering effects of the pandemic, there is so much need for food in our community right now. The Food for Hope food and fund drive helps ACCESS stock up the shelves in our food pantries so we can get it to hungry families struggling this holiday season and into the new year," says ACCESS Executive Director Carrie Borgen.

Grocery bags will be distributed in the Mail Tribune on Sunday, November 21<sup>st</sup>, the Savor on Wednesday, November 24<sup>th</sup>, and will also be available at Food 4 Less and Sherm's Thunderbird Markets. ACCESS is asking for the bags to be filled with non-perishable food items and dropped off at ACCESS, Food 4 Less, Sherm's Thunderbird Markets, Umpqua Bank locations and local fire stations by December 31<sup>st</sup>. For a list of all drop off locations and the most needed food items please visit [www.accesshelps.org/foodforhope](http://www.accesshelps.org/foodforhope).

Costal Farm & Ranch is matching all cash donations, up to a total of \$1000. Tax deductible monetary donations can be made online at [www.accesshelps.org/foodforhope](http://www.accesshelps.org/foodforhope) or mailed to ACCESS, P.O. Box 4666, Medford, OR 97501. The Food for Hope food and fund drive is sponsored by Sherm's Thunderbird, Food 4 Less and Rosebud Media. For more information, email [donorsupport@accesshelps.org](mailto:donorsupport@accesshelps.org).

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**ABOUT ACCESS**

ACCESS provides food, warmth, shelter, and other essential services to Jackson County's low-income children, families, seniors, veterans, and people with disabilities. As the Community Action Agency of Jackson County, Oregon, ACCESS has been helping residents break the cycle of poverty since 1976. Last year, 67,070 people received assistance from ACCESS's broad continuum of services, including obtaining safe, affordable housing, rental assistance, utility assistance, weatherization, free loaned durable medical equipment, and healthy food.

ACCESS provides equal employment opportunities (EEO) to all employees and applicants for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability or genetics. In addition to federal law requirements, ACCESS complies with applicable state and local laws governing nondiscrimination in employment in every location in which the company has facilities.

ACCESS is an equal opportunity provider. ACCESS is a non-profit 501 (c)(3) organization, Federal ID No. 93-0665396.

All donations are tax deductible per tax code. No goods or services are provided in consideration of donations.

**USDA Nondiscrimination Statement**

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To file a program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, (AD-3027) found online at: [http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint\\_filing\\_cust.html](http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html), and at any USDA office, or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

- (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410;
- (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or
- (3) email: [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov).

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