

# Creating a Food Labyrinth

By Kay Kinneavy



You just never know who's going to come to the labyrinth or how they will respond. I was totally amazed when a man was so touched by my food labyrinth that he walked the whole labyrinth a second time with his video camera. Then he asked me to talk to him on camera. So now I'm on YouTube with the Wild

Gourmet. Weird. My grandkids think it is so cool to [see Grandma on Youtube.](#)

I've been wanting to do a Food Labyrinth for a long time. Suddenly, quite unexpectedly, I had the opportunity to create a labyrinth out of canned food as a benefit for the new food pantry that was being opened in Lincoln City. Food Share of Lincoln County made the arrangements and did the publicity. My job was to create the labyrinth. I really did not know how to do this. I'm not a labyrinth maker, but somehow I did it, and the labyrinth came out looking pretty good. Wow! Everybody was impressed, and I was more surprised than anybody when I saw the finished product.



## How we did it

Several people have asked me for more details about how to do a food labyrinth, so here's how we did.

I used a Baltic Wheel pattern (28 ft. wide) with wide paths and one way traffic so people wouldn't trip over the cans.



My granddaughter Dana helped me practice drawing it in the sand at the beach. My son Kevin helped me make a masking tape dispenser using [Robert Ferre's instructions](#). I was on my own when it was time to lay out the labyrinth on the floor of the Lincoln City Cultural Center. All I can say is that it's lucky that masking tape can easily be ripped up and redone when you make mistakes.

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The Lincoln City Food Labyrinth was a community project. Food was collected in advance at several locations around town. People also brought donations of canned food and placed it on the masking tape as they walked the labyrinth. Local musicians volunteered



their time providing a variety of music throughout the day. We had a display of paintings: "Meditations on Hunger" by Artist Sentilla McKinley which were for sale, and there was a jar for cash donations.



It takes a lot of food to cover a 28 ft. labyrinth. When we started, there were long stretches with no food. We saw it as a metaphor for our poverty-stricken county where some people have lots of food and many others have almost none. We collected 800 lbs of food and \$2405 cash.

## FOOD LABYRINTH PHOTO ALBUM

Photos by Joyce Thompson Graham  
Rennie McGuire and Kay Kinneavy

[Click here to See the Pictures](#)

[Food Labyrinth, Flyer \(pdf\)](#)

[Food Labyrinth, Press Release \(pdf\)](#)

### About the Author

Kay Kinneavy is a founding member of Labyrinth Network Northwest and is a member of the LNN Planning Circle. She spends most of her time working on this website. Kay is a Veriditas trained labyrinth facilitator and is active in The Labyrinth Society. Kay enjoys searching for new labyrinths to walk. Her goal was to walk all the labyrinths of Oregon, but labyrinths are being built faster than she can walk them.