

Fairbanks Community Food Bank

# Annual Report 2008

1982-2008

26 Years of *Neighbors Helping Neighbors*  
in Interior Alaska

## We Focus on



SHARING

Dear Supporters,

In 1982 a small group of people had a great idea. Let's collect our surplus food in this community (every community has surplus food) and give it to people who need it. There are always people who are not sure where their next meal will come from. In Interior Alaska, let's SHARE our resources.

Now, let's imagine if... money was never an issue at the food bank. We receive free food and give it away free. We do our best to be the most cost-effective and efficient grassroots agency in Alaska, supported by local donors, many of whom have received services in the past and want to pass along the blessings to others who need some food assurance.

Usually, hunger or lack of food assurance (don't know where their next meal will come from) is a passing event in a life. People find jobs, get healed from their injuries or illness, return to a (restored) home after a fire, or in some way find a solution to the problem which led them into a crisis situation. Food Bank is here for them during the emergency, and often they are willing to stand by another family who is in need when they get back

on their feet. And that's the way it works in Interior Alaska.

As we all approach a time when our permanent fund dividend arrives in the mail, we ask you to consider a donation which will help a local family get through their crisis situation. If you have a surplus of food, please donate it. If you have a surplus of time or can make time, please consider a volunteer shift at the food bank. If you have "extra" money or can make an extra donations this time of the year because of the permanent fund dividend, will you please consider a gift to your local, home-grown, made in Alaska, food bank?

The miracle is that we are not grant funded, just folks here in the Tanana Valley helping folks in Interior Alaska, and we have been doing that job since 1982 – nearly 27 years. Your help is definitely needed to keep the doors open and to continue to do the important tasks of recycling useable food. We certainly cannot do this work without your support, especially this year as we all try to pay our fuel bills. Thank you.



Samantha Kirsten

# The Food Bank has received 53,300 pounds of food *less* each month than this time last year...

That concerns us as we are stretching to provide the same level of food assistance to local people who are affected by high energy (and other) costs, so we are watching both ends of the process (less food in, less food out). What do we do? We asked our local grocers how we can help them with their store policies in order to provide opportunities to utilize their “salvage” food in our food bank. All food establishments have waste. We can only dream of the day when this Food Bank can help to “eliminate all waste” in our community. Having said that, we can certainly tighten up our community waste policies so that food waste is minimized. It doesn’t make any sense to ship food all the way to Fairbanks, Alaska, then throw it away. The mission of this small local food bank is to salvage local food to give it (through churches and agencies) to people who need it.

At the FOOD BANK we celebrate all the heroes we have in our local grocery stores. We work to be a step in their store’s efficiency and good management. We want to help them reduce the costs of removing their waste by carefully removing it for them. We urge each shopper to replace grocery carts and pick up litter in their

parking lots. As a community, we want to work together to do good things in our community, and to share our resources, because it doesn’t make sense to do anything less. Fairbanks is a long way from anywhere else and we all like to help one another.

When we hear of the disposal of hundreds of pounds of produce, we ask how that could be happening, and we want to stand beside our neighbors and all of us together advocate for good policies which prevent commercial waste of food.

Some stores are developing and emerging into zero waste policies. WALMART and SAM’S CLUB are working in that direction, and that is very exciting to think of what their muscle can bring to the development of community food policies. We are watching this “revolution” with great interest and celebrating as we see the possibilities.

How can we help our local grocers? It is really very simple.

1. ASK your favorite store managers what their policies are.
2. THANK the ones who tell you they want to continue to share their salvaged food with the community.
3. Here are the contacts for you. Remember that we have some real heroes and advocates for the wise use of local food in this list, make sure you say THANK YOU every time you walk into their stores:

Carr’s North Pole  
(North Pole Safeway)  
301 North Santa Claus Lane  
North Pole, AK 99705  
490-2700  
Trevor Hanson

Safeway East  
(Bentley Mall Safeway)  
30 College Rd  
Fairbanks, AK 99701  
374-4100  
Juanita Lewis

Wal-Mart Super Center  
537 Johansen Express Way  
Fairbanks, AK 99701  
451-9900  
Timothy Erickson

Fred Meyer East  
(East Fairbanks Fred Meyer)  
930 Old Steese Highway, Suite A  
Fairbanks, AK 99701  
459-4200  
Dennis Thompson

Safeway West  
(University Center Safeway)  
3627 Airport Way  
Fairbanks, AK 99709  
374-4000  
Lee Darling

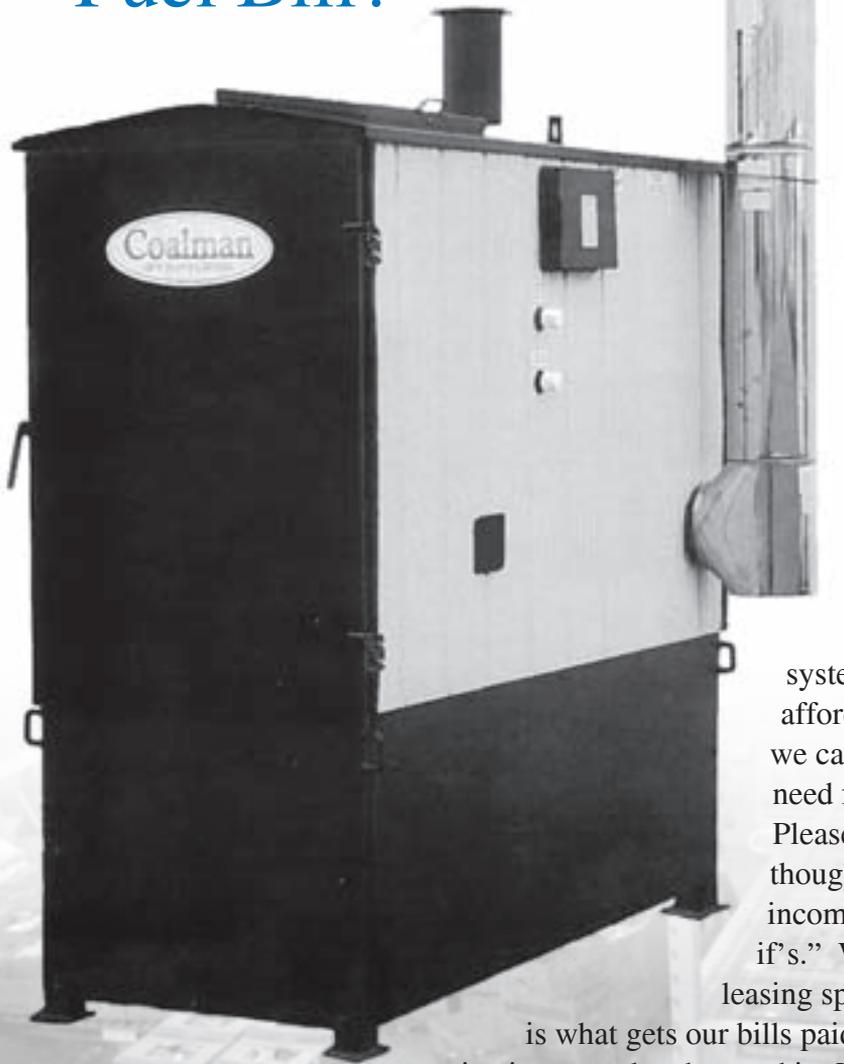
**\*\*\*News Flash: Sam’s Club (Bill Biggs) and Walmart just called to let us know they are working hard to prevent food waste. This is a step in their new zero waste policy.\*\*\*  
Food Bank THANKS these progressive stores in the implementation of their new policies.**

Fred Meyer West  
(West Fairbanks Fred Meyer)  
3755 Airport Way  
Fairbanks, AK 99709  
474-1400  
David Atlee

Sam’s Club  
48 College Road  
Fairbanks, AK 99701  
451-4800  
Ray Braugitan

# How Do We Pay Our Fuel Bill?

## THE FOOD BANK JUST PURCHASED A COAL BOILER



Each person in Interior Alaska is asking “what’s going to happen to my household during this energy crisis?” All indicators, including the almanac, suggest this will be a tough, hard winter. With heating fuel and gasoline prices at \$4.50/gallon, we are all wondering how to keep our bills paid. Many of the people to whom we have provided food assistance over the summer have told us they are trying to pay off their last winter’s fuel bill so they can get credit to buy fuel for the winter of 2008. **That’s just plain scary.** In January, February and March of 2008 this food bank paid over \$12,000 for utilities each month. We are working, as you are, to be more energy efficient. One-third of our lights are turned off and we are looking at every

system in the building to see how we can make it affordable. It is an unacceptable idea to think that we cannot keep our doors open to serve folks who need food assistance during winter of 2008-09. Please know that we have been thinking these thoughts for many years, always trying to make both income and expense decisions based on the “what if’s.” We created earned income in this building by leasing space to other local non profits, and we hope that

is what gets our bills paid so we can continue to salvage local food and give it to people who need it. We are committed to getting that job done and want to be here serving the community in 2032, our 50th birthday party!

Our current heating system is natural gas, and those costs are high and unpredictable after December of this year, so thanks to a grant through the State of Alaska, requested by Representative Jay Ramras, we were able to purchase a coal boiler to reduce our daily operations costs. Our plan is to have this new boiler installed by October of this year. We will still have natural gas as a backup fuel, but coal will be the primary fuel to heat our warehouse. **ALL IDEAS OF CONSERVATION, ENERGY SAVINGS, CREATIVE FOOD DISTRIBUTION PLANS WHICH SAVE MONEY ARE EAGERLY REQUESTED.** This is your community food bank and we need to hear from you as we all face these issues together.

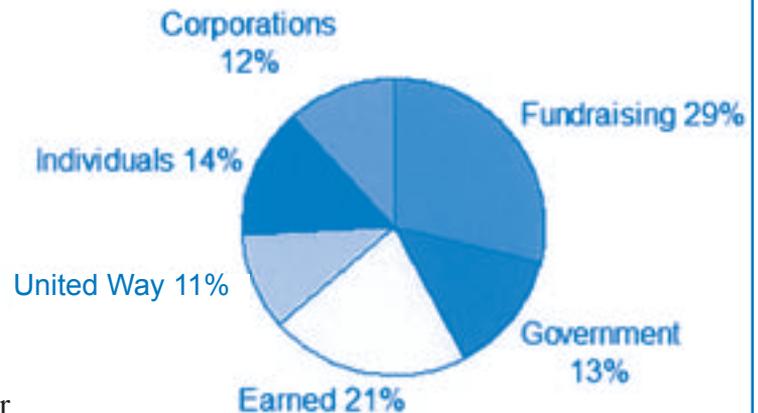
## GOOD HAPPENS! Fast Facts

	July 05-June 06	July 06-June 07	July 07-June 08
Food Bank customers served	33,342	30,776	30,384
Lbs. of food received from the community	2,145,077	2,355,351	1,715,787
Volunteer hours	17,000	16,480	16,603

The trend is the less food we receive, the fewer people we can serve, and the less food we have to give them. In the children's story of stone soup we remember it takes all of us giving a little to create enough soup for the community. That is exciting and is the way this community has supported its food bank for the past 26 years. If you give an onion, your neighbor gives a potato, and I give a carrot, we can make enough soup to feed all of us.

**The good news?** 80% of the resources we need to operate the food bank are locally donated "in-kind" (non-cash); donated food, volunteer hours and donated facilities. So long as you folks continue to volunteer your time and grocers donate their food, we will do our best to make sure your gifts are given to people who need them.

### FY 2008 Actual Income Sources



*Freely Given Food,  
Given Freely*

### Our Mission Statement

The mission of this food bank is to  
 (a) encourage those who can to share food from your cupboards and gardens. If you are a commercial food vendor, review your salvage food policies to make sure you eliminate as much food waste as possible.

(b) collect surplus food in the community and share it with local people who need it.



### BOARD MEMBERS 2008

Jake Poole, President  
 Robert Holden, Vice-President  
 Hollis Hall, Secretary  
 Mark Chamberlain, Treasurer  
 Michael Walsh, Past-President  
 Ellen Ayotte  
 Bernice Boykin  
 Phil Cochrane  
 Sandy Cummings  
 Rick Hinkey  
 Karen Kiss  
 Maria Muehlenkamp  
 Bill Wright

Samantha Kirstein  
 Executive Director  
 725 26th Avenue  
 Fairbanks, Alaska 99701  
 Tel: 907-456-7267  
 FAX: 907-374-9776

Email: [sam@fairbanksfoodbank.org](mailto:sam@fairbanksfoodbank.org)

**We're on the Web!**  
**Donate on-line**  
[www.fairbanksfoodbank.org](http://www.fairbanksfoodbank.org)