



Fairbanks Community Food Bank HARVEST



Neighbors Helping Neighbors

Annual Report 2021

Does the Fairbanks Community Food Bank WASTE food? What FOOD SAFETY GUIDELINES do we use?

FACTS AND QUESTIONS:

1. We never know how much food will be available for us to collect each day. We must be prepared for 2 tons, 5 tons, or more food to be donated. Imagine a day with 5 tons of food and 5 (not 15) volunteers to handle it. Occasionally that happens, and it is a very rough day.
2. What if we receive 9 (unexpected) van loads of milk on one day, what do we do with all that perishable milk?
3. We are so thankful to all who donate the food, including the commercial vendors, and we want to serve them well. When we go for a scheduled food pick-up we know we are providing a service to the local grocery stores. They do not want us standing in their backrooms picking through and only removing the best of what they give us. We take pride in helping them dispose of their “extra” and sometimes that means we receive too much bread or produce. And don’t forget watermelon season, haha. Glenn Hackney used to tell me he would load them on the Food Bank truck one at a time, then off the Food Bank truck one at a time — and one time there were several hundred watermelons to handle.

4. The bottom line is, this Food Bank takes great pride in recycling as much food as possible. **Zero waste** — just as the grocery stores also challenge themselves to do. We don’t want to do all the work of moving the salvage food into our trucks and warehouse, and then waste it here. So we carefully watch “waste” each year.



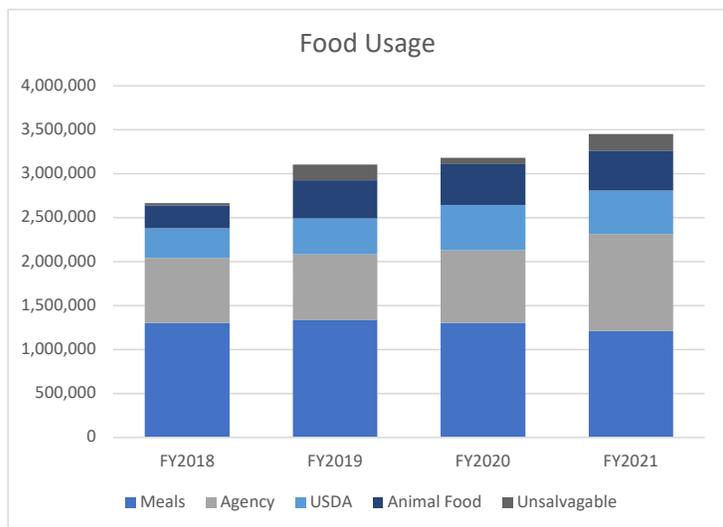
Hannah eating watermelon, she was happy it was in her food box today.

Stan Zielinski is looking at an interesting donation. We get everything from large pumpkins to hundreds of watermelons. We never know what is coming next.



(Continued on page 2)

SAFETY GUIDELINES *(Continued from page 1)*



THIS CHART SHOWS:

- The number of meals we have provided each year for the last 4 years.
- The amount which we have been able to give to other 501C3 agencies who also provide meals for the people they serve.
- The USDA (government food) which is shipped to us.
- Food which we have given to farmers and composters because it cannot be used in any of our programs.
- Food that was simply unsalvageable when we cleaned it up from commercial food vendors.
- We observe the amount of food which we provided/shared with other agencies increased in 2021 (Rescue Mission, Breadline, Journey Church, and many other groups who provide a hot meal).
- We also note more was given as animal food (example: pig farmers).

Please note the “unsalvageable” food which goes into our dumpster increased a little in 2021, but it is still a very small percentage of the food we are able to redistribute in our community. Some salvage food we simply cannot use.

Our goal is to recycle about 90% of the daily food we collect. Some days that is harder to do than others.

Our mission statement says it best: We collect local surplus food and give it to local people who need it. One of the motivating factors of the FOUNDERS of this organization was to SALVAGE food that would be wasted so no child in the Tanana Valley goes to bed hungry. **We also want to keep good food out of the**

landfill. Since 1982 we have been able to salvage 72,000,000 (yes, seventy-two million) pounds of local surplus food. 90% of the food we collect comes from commercial food vendors and local grocery stores in the Tanana Valley. We are one of the very few food banks in the United States who provides so much fresh food in our food boxes. Since our focus is not only to provide food to those who need it, but also to provide the very BEST NUTRITIOUS FOOD we can collect, we are deeply grateful for the daily produce we can include in the food boxes.

We have done the work of the Food Bank since 1982 with almost 900,000 volunteer hours of service. That does not include the off-site work of composters, farmers, food distribution sites in Fairbanks and North Pole as well as students in the North Star Borough, and the hundreds of non-perishable food collection drives which are done by individuals and businesses throughout our communities to fill the Food Bank’s shelves (except during COVID-19 as we all responded to CDC guidelines about assembling).

THESE ARE THE FOOD SAFETY GUIDELINES WE FOLLOW

There are some food items which we CANNOT accept. These items include:

- Food products that are not identifiable or have ingredients that are not identifiable (missing label or label written in a language other than English).
- Partially consumed foods (open packages).
- Unpasteurized foods.
- Home preserves and canned items (jams, jellies, pickles, etc).



Glenn has brought in millions of pounds of food, one pound at a time.

Your Donations at Work!

95% of all donations, including in-kind, go directly to feeding hungry people in Interior Alaska. Your financial gifts are partnered with a donated facility and 23,000 volunteer hours to support the collection of healthy, nourishing food, which is shared, free of charge, to those in need.

The annual CASH budget of the Fairbanks Community Food Bank is just over \$1.4 million. When you add the annual value of DONATED ITEMS (also known as IN-KIND) our annual operating budget is almost \$6.5 million. What types of items do we include in this added IN-KIND value?

- Donated food
- Donated facility
- Donated labor
- Donated equipment

That means our CASH needs are less than 25% of what we need to keep these doors open each year. We feel our obligation to you is to keep our need for CASH as low as possible and give each of you an opportunity to donate what you feel you can SHARE with those in this community who need your help. Of course, we must be able to pay our staff for organizing volunteers, writing grants, driving trucks, paying for insurance, and maintaining the operations of this large warehouse facility. Though CASH is less than 25% of what we need, it is the glue that makes the whole community project work.

EVERY DOLLAR you donate is important to us!

- To our “large” donors – **THANK YOU!**
- To our donors who can only afford \$5 and yet you still give to us – **THANK YOU!**
- **Every \$1 counts here!**

GOOD HAPPENS

Here is our GOOD HAPPENS chart for the past 3 years. Please note we have met and greatly exceeded our annual baseline goal each of these years. The Food Bank receives free food and gives it away free so no person needs to go to bed hungry in Interior Alaska.

We are at our highest efficiency when we are in our goal range. With these higher numbers, thanks to this community’s support, we have been able to go beyond our goals to meet the additional need as it has arisen. It wasn’t easy, especially during the COVID-19 time frame, but this amazing community stepped up, allowing us to meet the increased demand.

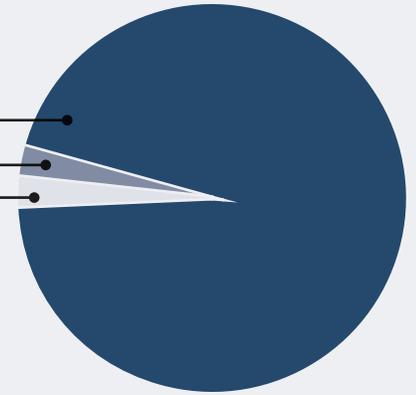


GOOD HAPPENS	GOAL Annual	ACTUAL July 2018 – June 2019	ACTUAL July 2019 – June 2020	ACTUAL July 2020 – June 2021
Food Bank Meals Served	350,000	793,898	826,691	828,378
Food Distributed by the Food Bank to Other Local Agencies	450,000	744,400	825,227	1,208,316
Pounds of Food Received	1,500,000	3,327,631	3,481,264	4,025,186
Volunteer Hours	13,200	25,054	25,579	22,943

PLEASE NOTE: Many of our numbers were odd this year due to irregularities with COVID needs. However, you can see we were able to meet every need expressed to us thanks to the faithfulness of this community.

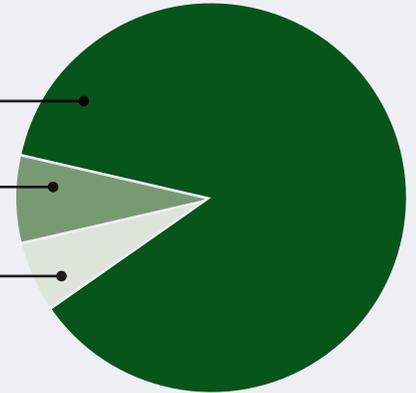
Actual FY2021 Expenses WITH IN-KIND

- Program \$6,164,211
- Administration \$159,413
- Fundraising \$152,417



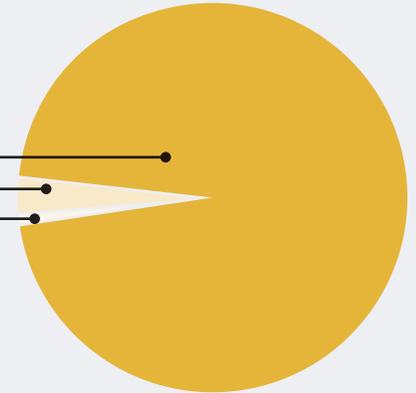
Actual FY2021 CASH

- Private/Corporate Donors \$1,831,438
- Rental Income \$204,850
- Government Grants \$88,391



Actual FY2021 CASH & IN-KIND

- Community Cash & In-Kind \$6,797,915
- Rental Income \$204,850
- Government Grants \$88,391





There is a difference between BEST BEFORE and EXPIRY Dates. When it comes to packaged foods the dates can get a little confusing. Here are some tips to tell the difference between dates:

- A BEST BEFORE date is simply the promise of the manufacturer the food in the package will be of highest quality. It is not an indication of food safety.
- Many times a BEST BEFORE date is not necessary and mostly used to indicate when the quality of food will begin to decrease (a change in taste and texture).
- The only items REQUIRED to have expiry dates are baby formula, meal replacements, formulated liquid diets, and nutritional supplements. These items must be thrown out past the EXPIRY date so they should NOT be consumed. This is because the nutritional content cannot be guaranteed beyond the EXPIRY date and the nutritional content is very important for babies, the sick, and the elderly.

To learn more first hand, please join us for a daily food sorting session. That is a very important job, done by VOLUNTEERS.

Mission Moments

All of these stories and other daily stories of courage and donor excitement come from our FACEBOOK page. Please go to www.fairbanksfoodbank.org and click on the FACEBOOK icon to see what we do every day.

Debbie Hall (retired school teacher and principal) organized a Lemonade Stand on June 26. She recruited 6 students to sell lemonade and home made cookies as a fundraiser to support the work of the Food Bank. It was so encouraging to hear the comments made by these students as the sales were being made. Each student knew they could have been working to raise money for their own personal projects, but they gave up this time to help people who were not sure where they would get their next meal. Joey, Kate, Maya Rush and Addylyn Gore-Hall and Anastasia and Isabell Pletnikoff worked from 10:30 to 3:30. They set a goal to make \$200 for the day and when the money was counted at 3:30 they had made \$800. That is how the Food Bank keeps our doors open. People in the Tanana Valley truly care about one another and move their good intentions from their mouths to their muscles. Thank you STUDENTS for your great work! One third of our volunteers are local STUDENTS. You ALL make a difference in the lives of people in the Tanana Valley.

If you're interested in volunteering, give us a call today at 907-457-4273 or visit www.fairbanksfoodbank.org to sign up!
For those who love to DONATE ONLINE, we hope we are giving you plenty of opportunity with easily accessible forms. If not, please help us improve them with your good suggestions.

Our Mission Statement

The Mission of the Fairbanks Community Food Bank is to collect local surplus food in the community and share it with local people who need it.

Board Members 2021

- President:** Gene Therriault
Vice President: Genevieve Bell
Secretary: Patty Walter
Treasurer: Hollis Hall
 Ray Bronson
 Nancy Hanson
 Trevor Hanson
 Bob Hajdukovich
 Uriah Nalikak
 Marisa Sharrah
 Ron Wall
 Mike Walsh

Staff Leadership Team

- Anne Weaver, CEO
 Samantha Kirstein, Community Development Director
 Gail Ballou, Attorney

Contact Information

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Phone: (907) 45-SHARE (457-4273)

The Difference Your Donation Makes

We will keep you fully informed about the difference your donation makes, and we ask you to consider 5% for the Fairbanks Community Food Bank as you prepare for the next generation in your estate planning. **Thank you.**

