



Fairbanks Community Food Bank

HARVEST



Neighbors Helping Neighbors

Winter 2021

Fairbanks Community Food Bank is Here Because *YOU Are Here!*

You invested in us in 1982, and we (together) have been able to invest in our community for 39 years. This local food bank **still** receives free food and gives it away free to those who need our help (very same mission statement since 1982). Your gifts are **still** hard at work providing food for those in need in Interior Alaska in 2021. In 39 years, there have been some interesting and challenging concerns, good times and hard times, but YOU are **still** keeping these Fairbanks Community Food Bank doors open.

OUR WORK IS ONLY POSSIBLE BECAUSE OF YOU!

Who are some of the donors who continue to invest in this local food bank? What types of community gifts are being invested in the daily operations of the Fairbanks Community Food Bank? Remember, in the big picture of all the resources it takes to keep these doors open, both cash and in-kind (non-cash) donations, the government grants we receive are about 1.2% of the whole budget picture. That means this is truly a COMMUNITY food bank, built by and supported by the people who love Interior Alaska and the people who live here.

Each day this food bank must have DONATED food, volunteer labor, and cash. With those donations of at least 5 tons of food EACH DAY, we can provide at least 60 households with food boxes, using 75+ hours of volunteer time. We are able to maintain a food warehouse with space, heat, and power and keep the delivery trucks on the road to pick up and deliver food. Two-thirds of the daily food we collect goes immediately into the food box program or to the FOOD IS MEDICINE program. One-third of the collected daily food goes to other local 501c3 organizations that also serve people in the Tanana Valley. We are open 6 days each week, 52 weeks each year. Before, during, and after COVID-19 and other challenges, during snowstorms, and on good days when our volunteers would rather be planting gardens and catching fish, we are still here to serve our community.



“When the chapter about COVID-19 pandemic is written, it will be remembered as a time of resilience, shared sacrifice, and the never-give-up spirit that lives within all Alaskans.”

- Congressman Don Young

Congressman Don Young has seen the best and worst of growing a sustainable Alaska in his 25 terms in office (since 1973). He understands challenges and knows that this, too, will pass. Groups like the Fairbanks Community Food Bank will continue to have the community support we need to keep these doors open. **Thank you, Congressman Young, for your reminder!**



Bill Helps This Food Bank Long Term

Bill Stroecker Foundation (**still**) invests in this local food bank. Bill was born in Fairbanks on July 31, 1920, and he died in Fairbanks on November 8, 2010. He was 90 years old and was a leader in the banking industry for decades. He was also a talented musician and an outdoorsman who was active in many parts of the community.

In the establishment of his Foundation, he mentioned dozens of groups he wanted to continue to support, and the Fairbanks Community Food Bank was on that list. In a NewsMiner article written on December 30, 2012 by Dermot Cole, Dermot commented, "This Foundation has tremendous potential for improving the quality of life in our community.

Stroecker's decision to create this entity was a gift to his hometown." Here we are in 2021, eleven years after Bill's death, and the Trustees of that Foundation have continued to provide funds for the Fairbanks Community Food Bank, before, during, and after COVID-19. **Thank you, Bill, for your vision and continuing long term care for our community.**

Local Business Supports This Food Bank

In 2021, Kinross Fort Knox is celebrating the 25th anniversary of the Kinross Fort Knox gold mine since they began operations northeast of Fairbanks. Over these 25 years, they've become one of Interior Alaska's most important economic pillars through providing jobs, buying local whenever they can, supporting education, and operating on a people-first basis. They've kept their company close to home, all while maintaining one of the best environmental and safety records in the world. In these first 25 years, they've become the highest producing gold mine in the state, and they are looking forward to honoring the commitments they've made to the environment and to Alaskans for years to come.

Their very first value as a global mining company is to put health and safety as their number one priority — among employees, partners, suppliers, **and in the communities where they operate.** We thank them for their continuous support of this local community food bank.

The first thing that comes to mind this year when COVID-19 hit our community, Kinross Fort Knox was one of the first phone calls we



received — asking how they could help. Usibelli Coal Mine was standing right there with them. It was very comforting to know the never-give-up spirit that lives within Alaskans which Congressman Young talks about today ... really happens. There were also over 4,000 local donors who contributed cash, volunteer time, and donated food. This kept these doors open during the pandemic. **What a great community we live in.**



Your Help Supports Animals, Too!

There are animal food needs, too. Tim Erickson, CEO of COLD SPOT for Healthy Pets, called to see what their company could

do. Here is his statement of why he chooses to invest in this local community food bank program:

“Cold Spot for Healthy Pets has had the distinct opportunity to work with the Fairbanks Community Food Bank in a variety of events and fundraisers over several years. Our relationship has been built on trust and in understanding that we are on a team, working together to benefit our wonderful community.

As a local company, we look to partner with organizations that are trustworthy, generous, and transparent in how they utilize their resources. The Fairbanks Community Food Bank checks all of those boxes and more! Over the past year, we have contacted the Food Bank with a few “interesting donations” and every time they willingly accept the donation and ensure that it gets to the people/ organizations who need it the most.

The Fairbanks Community Food Bank is a multiplier of resources, they can take literally anything and make it useful and valuable to those in need.”

Volunteer Spotlight: Nancy Hanson

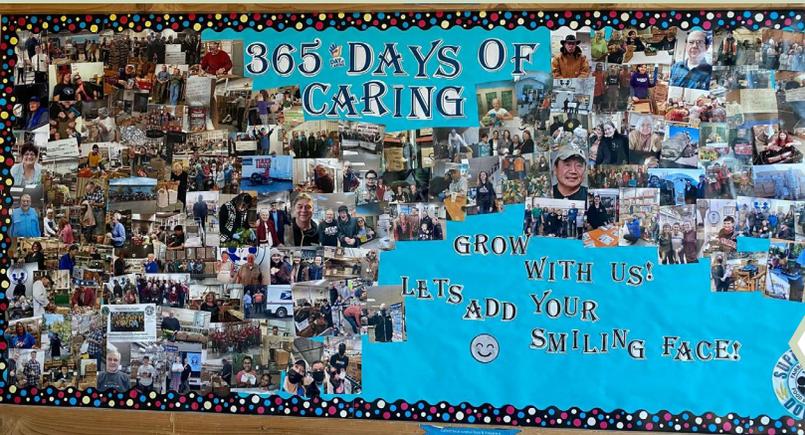


Volunteers, what do they say? Let’s check in with Nancy Hanson who is a one-day-a-week volunteer and also now serves on the Board of Directors. She says:

“Do you ever wonder what local grocery stores do with the produce that does not sell in the requisite period of shelf time? Even though I take canned food to the Fairbanks Community Food Bank, I hadn’t ever pondered the question about produce. About 6 months ago, I began volunteering and I see the volume of produce that comes in. Much is still good and can be added to food boxes for those with need.

I see much more than excess produce, though. People of all ages and walks of life volunteer-work together to provide for those with need, to make good use of fresh, canned, and packaged food that can’t be kept on grocery store shelves. Camaraderie and purpose ground our Food Bank employees, volunteers, board members, and those completing requisite service hours. I couldn’t do anything other than say a humble “yes” when asked if I would consider being on the Board of Directors.”

Volunteer with us!



In the past 12 months, this local food bank was able to serve over 800,000 meals in our communities PLUS the 1,000 USDA Farm to Family food boxes we received each week which were sent as disaster relief boxes during the pandemic. It takes, literally, a whole community to get all that food collected and distributed, so we can list hundreds of names and thousands of faces of the people in our community who make that work possible.

Is your face in this box? If not, will you please consider supporting this local food bank, too? We invite you to help us provide the next 800,000 meals in the next 12 months.



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 2022

- President:** Gene Therriault
- Vice President:** Genevieve Bell
- Secretary:** Patty Walter
- Treasurer:** Hollis Hall
- Chad Hutchison
- 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

725 26th Avenue
 Fairbanks, Alaska 99701
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.



My hand made this turkey ...
 Your hand filled my plate.



Thank you to Mrs. Schellekens' Kindergarten class at Catholic Schools of Fairbanks for creating this fabulous box for Thanksgiving! Complete with Macaroni and Cheese (because as one child stated, "It's REALLY good!").

Pictured here are 17 students blessing this box before it leaves their school. The prayer of the students is that the recipients of this food box "be blessed and nourished from the inside out."

Thank you
 Kindergarteners!

Together We Can End Hunger

Paul Brown, Operations Manager at Santa Claus House in North Pole, says, "Obviously, with a business like ours, children are very close to our hearts. We're proud to support the Fairbanks Community Food Bank because we share the belief that no child should ever go to bed hungry, and no parent should ever have to choose between paying bills or feeding their children. **If we all do what we can to support our local food bank, together we can end hunger.**"

