



Fairbanks Community Food Bank

HARVEST



Neighbors Helping Neighbors

Spring 2023

Our COMMUNITY Keeps the Doors of this Food Bank open each year! NO ONE in the Tanana Valley should go to bed hungry. We CAN fix this!

While food banks depend on food and financial donations, they also rely heavily on another key resource: TIME, generously donated by volunteers. Volunteers are vital to ensuring food banks keep warehouses open and trucks on the road, and they ensure nutritious food reaches those facing hunger in their communities.

The logistics of managing and operating a food bank can be complex. However, food banks are still non-profits working with limited time and resources, and they look to volunteers for support in day-to-day operations.

This is what each food bank day looks like, Monday thru Friday, 52 weeks each year in the Tanana Valley. Two-thirds of all the daily work done in this warehouse building is done by local volunteers. Neighbors truly do help neighbors in the Tanana Valley.

We have had great volunteers on our board of directors since we began this local community work in 1982.

Dennis Wise volunteered to build us the warehouse to do the work of collecting and supplying food for our community in 1998, and added a warehouse addition in 2022 because he was inspired by our

response to the community COVID issues. His dream in 1997 was that we would have a facility that would meet the warehouse space needs during any community emergency, and because of his foresight and generous giving we were able to respond six days a week during COVID 2020 and 2021.

Dennis Wise, and so many other wonderful volunteers, move their good ideas from their mouth to their muscles, and TOGETHER we can make a lot of GOOD THINGS HAPPEN, ONE PERSON AT A TIME.



WHAT VOLUNTEERS DO AT THE FAIRBANKS COMMUNITY FOOD BANK

We celebrate that in the past 40 years, we have collected over 76 million pounds of local surplus food and we are approaching the milestone of ONE MILLION VOLUNTEER HOURS invested in doing the work of our local Food Bank. We still celebrate that we receive free food and give it away free, and it takes a whole community to make good things happen in Interior Alaska. Here are four examples to show why volunteers are crucial to the Fairbanks Community Food Bank.

1 Working in our Food Warehouse

In the Fairbanks Community Food Bank THE DISTRIBUTION OF FOOD work is done primarily by daily volunteers. Most shifts are 10am - noon, then we provide a hot lunch for those who are still here working. Some volunteers choose to come in the afternoon and continue to sort food and distribute it to the other local agencies who come here to pick it up for their food assistance programs, as we prep for the next day's work.



Thank you to Fairbanks Downtown Rotary Club members for packing onions, carrots, and celery in sacks for Thanksgiving boxes.

2 Distributing Food in Our Community

Volunteers are the heart of this organization, whether it is here in the warehouse or at the various daily distribution sites. On-site volunteers collect, sort, pack the food boxes, and put them on the correct vehicle to deliver to the community distribution sites. The distribution sites sign-up and schedule their own volunteers to do the food distribution work. Most of the distribution sites choose one day each week and recruit the volunteers they need to get their work done.



Finley Waring had a birthday and asked her friends to bring in cans of food for this Food Bank.

This Food Bank does NOT count the number of off-site volunteer hours, so we can easily say TWO MILLION VOLUNTEER HOURS have gone into making sure no household goes to bed hungry in the Tanana Valley since 1982. One million volunteer hours are done at this Food Bank warehouse, and one million volunteer

hours are being done at the food distribution work-sites throughout the Tanana Valley.



Thank you to 2nd Battalion 8th Field Artillery Regiment on Ft. Wainwright who had a rucksack march and MARCHED in 2,014 pounds of food.

3 Recovering and Distributing the Collected Food

We do not count the hours of volunteers who work off-site in recovering food from farms/commercial food vendors and grocery stores. Most of the food recovery work is done by employees of various grocery stores and other commercial companies who want to do food drives for this Food Bank.

We are so grateful for all the community members who see a food drive going on in an organization and



“Thank you to Hannah Weaver, a Monroe student who did all the recording of FOOD IN and FOOD OUT on the day before Thanksgiving.



This is the 40th Year for First Presbyterian Church to do the food box distribution on the day before Thanksgiving. Thank you Jim Williams for unloading many tons of food early in the morning.

take the time to participate in their event, at school or throughout the community. We are especially grateful to our community for remembering to say THANK YOU to the grocers who choose to give their salvage food to this local Food Bank.

PLEASE TAKE AN EXTRA MOMENT TO THANK THE STAFF OF YOUR FAVORITE GROCERY STORE FOR TAKING THAT EXTRA MINUTE TO PUT THE DAILY SURPLUS FOOD INTO A SPECIAL BIN MARKED FOR THE FAIRBANKS COMMUNITY FOOD BANK. That is something each one of us can do, say THANK YOU. We can also push our empty grocery carts back into their outdoor racks as a way to say THANK YOU to our local grocery store staff. The grocery staff doesn't want to see people in the Tanana Valley go to bed hungry, and they willingly and joyfully do what they can do, too. Neighbors really do help neighbors in the Tanana Valley.

4 Offering Administrative or Skills-Based Support

Volunteering doesn't always involve physical tasks. Duties at this Food Bank can include data entry, responding to the public, and other

office administrative tasks. In addition to these responsibilities, this Food Bank sometimes looks for volunteers with expertise in areas such as social media, graphic design, fundraising, or education.

If you are interested in volunteering at the Fairbanks Community Food Bank please go online to www.fairbanksfoodbank.org for more information and/or call 907-45-SHARE (907-457-4273) and ask our front desk staff to answer your questions, or call Sam for a tour. We would love to have you come here to see how your investment of time, food, or cash donations supports this Food Bank, and how this Food Bank supports our whole community. COVID relief was a good example of who we are and what we do, one person at a time, in a loving GOLDEN HEART OF ALASKA.



MacPac powered by MAC Federal Credit Union JOY to Food Bank work.



If YOU have a good idea, please call us at 907-457-4273 (45-SHARE). YOU are the reason we can say yes when a young mom comes in and doesn't have food for her children and we can hand her a special meal handmade in our food-safe DEC approved kitchen as "carry out" by Quota Club, for example.



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 2023

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

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.



What is the Value of our Local Community Food Bank?

What does it mean when we tell you that every \$1 you give is like giving \$4? It means we purchase insurance, audits, vehicle tires and gas, staff to organize the daily work, and other things any well-managed business needs to have for administration and for building safety. And then leverage your \$1 by ...

Signing in about 25,000 on-site volunteer hours — that is at least 80 hours each day, six days each week. Each year we have church youth groups, Rotarians, retired engineers, and other professionals, so it is hard to place a value on this incredible gift of time. But what if we use —
\$11/hour x 80 hours/day = \$880 each day or \$275,000 for the year.

Thanks to Dennis Wise, this local Food Bank is mortgage free. Each year we value the 70,000 sq. ft. warehouse you have built for us and donated to us at \$2/SF. **That is an annual gift of \$140,000 each year.**

Nationally, other food banks say the value of “donated food” is about \$1.74/pound. We have brought in as much as four million pounds of collected local food in one year. **The value of all those community gifts of food is about \$7,000,000.**

The total of IN-KIND gifts to this local food banking program is \$7,415,000 each year. Astonishing.

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.

Brandy Ostanik-Thornton assembled:

- 165 cups flour
- 120 T sugar
- 90 tsp yeast
- 45 tsp salt
- 4 teenagers
- 3 mixers
- 2 adults
- 1 hair-brained idea

and made 62 loaves of homemade bread for the Fairbanks Community Food Bank and priceless memories with her mom and daughter.



If you're interested in volunteering, give us a call today at 907-457-4273 or visit www.fairbanksfoodbank.org to sign up!