



# HARVEST



*Neighbors Helping Neighbors*

Annual Report 2023

## We celebrate the wisdom of those who formed this organization in 1982, 41 years ago.



**Please thank a local grocer for their local community connections.**

We hear a lot these days about food waste. Let's retell the story of this Fairbanks Community Food Bank. **Food waste is not a new topic.** In 1982 Alaska was in a serious recession. A small group of people decided to do something to help the families in the Tanana Valley who were going to bed hungry. These founders knew all commercial food providers have some food waste which can be salvaged, so they founded the Fairbanks Community Food Bank with two purposes, stated in the Articles of Incorporation filed on May 20, 1982:

We celebrate that this very good plan began with thoughtful people taking care of our community by using local food resources in 1982. Fortunately, these thoughtful people had the FOLLOW-THROUGH to make good things happen in the Tanana Valley. Their record from 1982 to June 2023 is this:

- ➔ Over 80,000,000 pounds of food salvaged in 41 years (yes, over 80 million pounds!).
- ➔ Individual community members who support our mission of receiving free food and giving it away free has gone from the original five people to over 4,000 people annually.
- ➔ 942,000 volunteer hours of service have gotten this enormous community work of food banking done. Believe it or not, that is at least 72-75 volunteer hours each day, 6 days each week, 52 weeks a year, for 41 years.

*(Continued on page 2)*



1 The Food Bank has been established to meet the dual purpose of providing food for hungry people and effectively using surplus food that would ordinarily be discarded. The Food Bank offers a practical alternative to the incongruous problems of hunger and food waste. It also will serve as a clearing house, collecting unmarketable, yet still edible, food and distributing it to responsible non-profit organizations for use

in their prepared meal programs. The food is distributed free of charge.

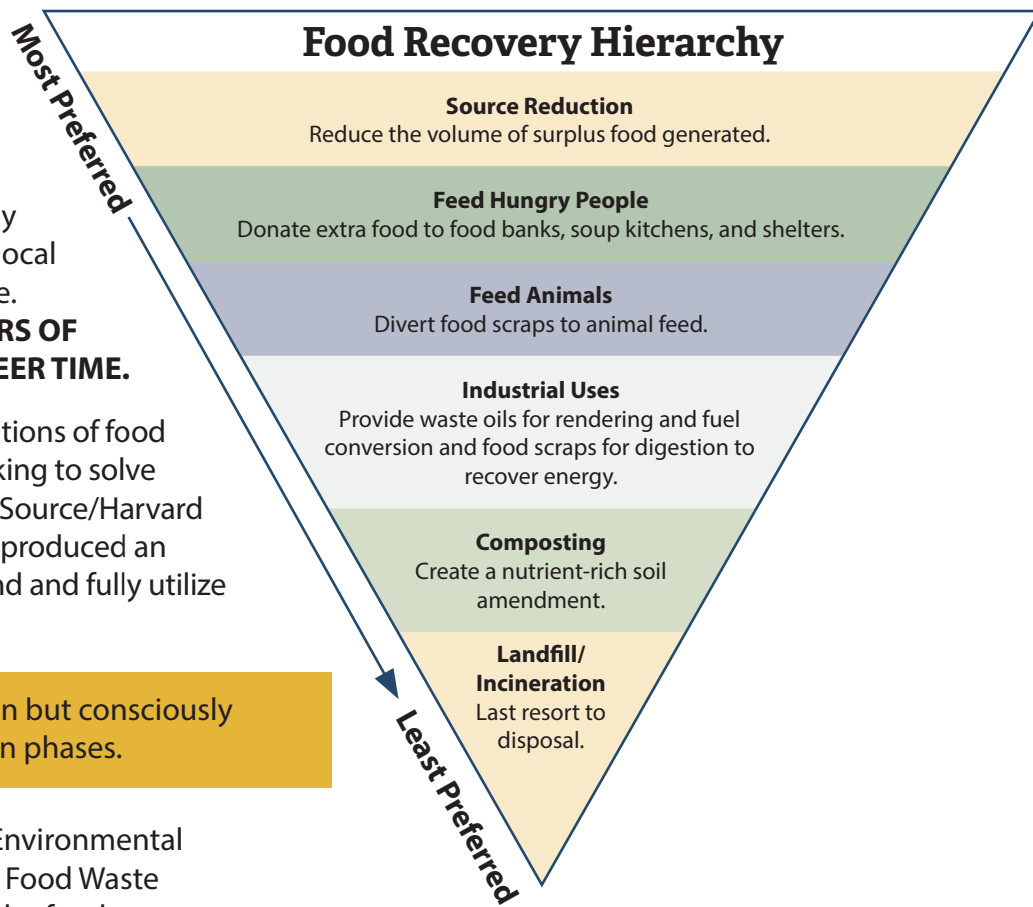
2 The Fairbanks Community Food Bank Service will also provide an emergency food program in which boxes of nutritionally balanced, first-quality food, is distributed to individuals and families in an emergency situation — usually a three or four day supply.



# We celebrate the wisdom ... (continued)

→ Our bottom line is we STILL receive free food and give it away free, and it takes a whole community to make good things happen in Interior Alaska. This year has certainly presented many challenges, but the doors of this local food bank are STILL open to serve. **THANK YOU TO ALL THE DONORS OF FOOD, DOLLARS AND VOLUNTEER TIME.**

Now let's talk about the current definitions of food waste and how other groups are working to solve the issues associated it. The Nutrition Source/Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health has produced an important graph to help us understand and fully utilize salvaged food for its best purpose.



**Food Waste:** Food fit for consumption but consciously discarded at the retail or consumption phases.

The Department of Agriculture and Environmental Protection Agency launched the U.S. Food Waste Challenge, calling on entities across the food chain, including farms, agricultural processors, food manufacturers, grocery stores, restaurants, universities, schools, and local government to set these goals:

- 1 Reduce food waste by improving product development, storage, shopping/ordering, marketing, labeling, and cooking methods.
- 2 Recover food waste by connecting potential food donors to hunger relief organizations like food banks and pantries.
- 3 Recycle food waste to feed animals or to create compost, bioenergy, and natural fertilizers.

Remember, the original founders of this Fairbanks Community Food Bank in 1982 had the courage to imagine a community who managed salvaged food to (1) feed hungry people in the Tanana Valley and (2) effectively use the food which would ordinarily be discarded. That mission has not changed in 41 years. We meet the recommended standards of the food recovery hierarchy above. When we have salvaged food which cannot be used for human consumption,

there are local farmers who take the waste scraps free of charge, and feed it to their animals. There also is a newly formed local group named WASTE ME NAUGHT that is in the process of exploring systems/methods that truly do work as composters in the cold climate of the Tanana Valley. **Their mission is to keep food out of the landfill — and that is our mission, too.**

**This is NOT waste food, it is food donated to this food bank to sort and prepare for local household food boxes each day. We work hard to salvage at least 85% of the food donated to us by local food donors, and the food which cannot be salvaged goes to local farmers. We collect free food and give it away free. We do not charge for food that goes to local farmers.**

Our local grocers, almost all the local grocery stores, make sure they set aside their salvaged food for this food bank six days each week. They also save us their cardboard boxes so we can reuse them to move the daily food boxes to the homes of those we are able to serve.

# Your Donations at Work!

94% of all donations, including in-kind, go directly to feeding hungry people in Interior Alaska. Your financial gifts are partnered with donated facilities and 23,441 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 \$1.6 million. When you add the annual value of DONATED ITEMS (also known as IN-KIND) our annual operating budget is almost \$7.1 million. What types of items do we include in this added IN-KIND value?

- Donated Food
- Donated Labor
- Donated Facilities
- Donated Equipment

That means our CASH needs are 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 these warehouse facilities. Though CASH is 25% of what we need, it is the glue that makes this 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 invest in us, **THANK YOU!**
- **Every \$1 counts here!**

## GOOD (still) HAPPENS HERE (As we celebrate 41 years of an impossible community business plan)

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 additional needs as they have arisen. It has never been easy, but this amazing community always steps up, allowing us to meet our local needs. Our community CARES, and NEIGHBORS truly do help NEIGHBORS through this Fairbanks Community Food Bank. THANK YOU.

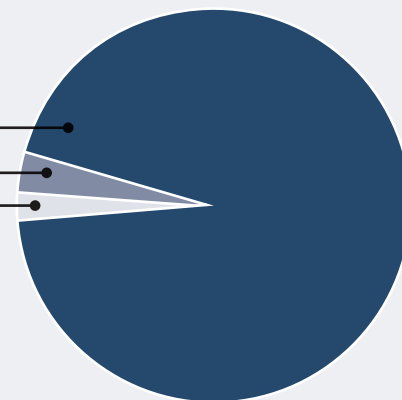


GOOD HAPPENS	GOAL Annual	ACTUAL July 2020–June 2021	ACTUAL July 2021–June 2022	ACTUAL July 2022–June 2023
Food Bank Meals Served	350,000	828,378	621,756	729,499
Food Distributed by the Food Bank to Other Local Agencies	450,000	1,208,316	904,649	917,926
Pounds of Food Received	1,500,000	4,025,186	3,326,123	2,967,397
Volunteer Hours	13,200	22,943	22,758	23,441

PLEASE NOTE: We have met and greatly exceeded our annual baseline goal each of these past three years. The Food Bank receives free food and gives it away free so no person needs to go to bed hungry in Interior Alaska.

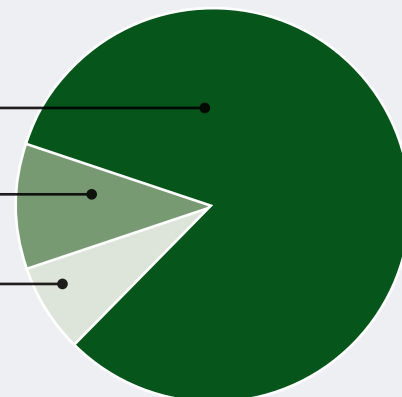
### Actual FY2023 Expenses CASH & IN-KIND

Programs \$6,768,060  
Administration \$225,823  
Fundraising \$178,364



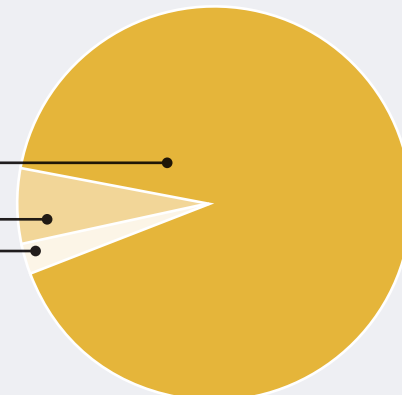
### Actual FY2023 INCOME CASH ONLY

Private/Corporate Donors \$1,454,377  
Earned Income \$182,350  
Government Grants \$127,898



### Actual FY2023 CASH & IN-KIND

Community Cash & In-Kind \$6,542,022  
Government Grants & Food \$446,732  
Earned Income \$182,350







## 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
- Derek Dickinson
- 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 can you do as a thoughtful community member?

Donate your surplus food, we will sort through it using DEC food safety guidelines and make sure it is appropriate for those who need it. Our rule of thumb to those volunteers who are packing food boxes is this: **Don't send food out in a food box if you would not like to receive it yourself.**

Please continue your support of this food bank who receives free food and gives it away free. We need three things to keep our doors open: (1) donated food; (2) donated dollars to pay the expenses of this warehouse operation; (3) your volunteer labor and great ideas for salvaging local surplus food.

**PLEASE THANK OUR LOCAL GROCERS FOR THEIR THOUGHTFUL AND GENEROUS GIVING OF FOOD WHICH IS STILL IN VERY GOOD CONDITION BUT HAS TO BE MOVED TO MAKE ROOM FOR THE NEW FOOD COMING IN.** Remember, most of our food is shipped up from the lower states and other countries and has traveled 7-10 days before it arrives here. Our stores want to present the best quality food possible which means they move some of the older, but still very good, food to this food bank for community distribution. **We provide a second chance for human consumption.** We are very grateful to be able to prepare it for those who need it. **EACH OF US NEEDS TO CONTINUE TO ENCOURAGE LOCAL GROCERS TO MAKE THE CHOICE TO FEED LOCAL HUNGRY HOUSEHOLDS WHO ARE FOOD INSECURE.** They are critical to the daily operations of this food bank.

## 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](http://www.fairbanksfoodbank.org) and click on the **FACEBOOK** icon to see what we do every day.



This week you helped give 8,050 meals to families in our community.

You helped an elderly woman with 2 grandkids who came to live with her. She was able to get some much-needed help with food while she figures out resources to help them out long-term. This is how community helps community.

We also were also able to send 30,000 pounds of food to other local non-profits in the Fairbanks North Star Borough. We love our Golden Heart Community.



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