



Fairbanks Community Food Bank

# HARVEST

Winter 2019



*Neighbors Helping Neighbors*

## Tanana Valley Gives

**That GIVING has made an IMPACT in our community for decades!**

**Let's brag a little! There is so much good in the Tanana Valley, THANK YOU to the pioneers who saw the treasures inside the PEOPLE of Interior Alaska.**

COMMUNITY PARTNERS HAVE WORKED TOGETHER FOR DECADES, LONG BEFORE STATEHOOD. On July 7, 1958 (a date some of us can remember) Dwight D. Eisenhower signed the Alaska Statehood Act. We were allowed to become the 49th state. Though that was a milestone and monumental event in the lives of Alaska and Alaskans, there was much active community caring and BIG DREAMS about making this a more comfortable place for ALL ALASKANS long before 1958.

There were many hopes and dreams for the future of Alaska in 1958, and most of them were based on the vast resources and opportunities available in this



new state. Our culture was to share and take care of one another, because life was harder in Alaska than it was in ... Arizona, for example. Snow to shovel, moose to shoo out of the yard, gravel roads, low population of "pioneers" who lived more simple lifestyles. HELP was an action word. We rolled up our shirt sleeves and moved our good ideas from our mouths to our muscles. We were a young and vibrant group of people who wanted to make GOOD THINGS HAPPEN in our little communities.

Here are some examples of BIG DREAMS which have lasted for many decades. Most of these dreams started with a few people with very good ideas and follow-thru, and hearts to make GOOD THINGS HAPPEN in the Tanana Valley. Let's not let their dreams, hard work, and passion for growing a vibrant healthy community die in 2020. We still need a caring community supported by caring people.

# Good Things Happen In The Tanana Valley

These are some of the partner agencies with whom we still work. We share food with their programs so that **GOOD THINGS STILL HAPPEN IN THE TANANA VALLEY** — and **WE (local agencies) need and appreciate your continued support.**  
*(These partner agencies are listed by the decade in which they were founded locally.)*

## 1925 — **Farthest North Girl Scout Council (FNGSC)**



This Council in Fairbanks started in 1925 (34 years before Alaska became the 49th state). The Troop started as a 7-girl sewing class. THE DREAM was that the FNGSC, in partnership with committed adult volunteers, thoughtfully develops, manages, and maintains Girl Scouting throughout its jurisdiction to meet the needs of local girls, in order to build girls of courage, confidence, and character, who make the world a better place.

## 1946 — **ACCA, Inc.**

In 1946, THE DREAM began with a grassroots community effort to assist people needing orthopedic referrals and equipment as well as speech therapy. It is still a thriving agency who assists in improving the lives of people with disabilities and their families by providing quality diagnostic, therapeutic, educational, and referral services in conjunction with other community providers without regard to ability to pay.

## 1950 — **The Salvation Army**



The Salvation Army, an International movement which came to our town to meet human needs in His name without discrimination. THE DREAM: Wherever there is a need in Fairbanks, you'll find the Salvation Army. The rumor is in the early 1950's, Bill Stroecker, one of the original local board members, and, eventually, Jerry Walker and Jerry Haugeberg, were hard working locals who met regularly to discuss the work which needed to be done here. Their mission can be described as one that is as close as possible to what a community should be doing (says Jerry Haugeberg). They wanted to provide things most needed, basics, at a time when they were most needed by people in this valley. There have been many trained Salvation Army Officers who came along over the years to help assess needs, deliver programs, and balance the books for the organization. But locals had a Dream! Jerry Walker reminds all of us that "we can't forget our community foundation." It has taken decades of hard work to build these support systems, which have been used in so many hard times like floods, fires, earthquakes, and daily individual disasters.

**DONATE  
GOODS.**

Your purchases and donations are helping those in need. And DOING THE MOST GOOD!  
FAMILY STORES

## 1967 — **FRA (Fairbanks Rehabilitation Association)**

Established in 1967, THE DREAM was to help Alaskans with development disabilities by providing community based supportive services.

## 1969 — **Presbyterian Hospitality House**

For 50 years (founded about 1969) THE DREAM has been to work to provide a brighter, safer future for Alaska's children.



**1973** — **Resource Center for Parents and Children**  
Since 1973, THE DREAM: To stop Child Abuse and Neglect by providing resources, education, and support to parents and guardians. RCPC has grown significantly since then and continues to focus on giving children a safe environment to grow up in.

— **North Star Council on Aging**  
Meals on Wheels was established in 1973. THE DREAM was to Promote senior independence through nutrition, transportation, and social services.

**1974** — **Literacy Council of Alaska**  
Incorporated in 1974, our mission is to change lives through literacy for people of all ages in Fairbanks and the Interior.

— **ThrivAlaska**  
This agency is celebrating 44 years in the community, founded in 1974 during the TransAlaska Oil Pipeline. THE DREAM is to help children and families thrive.

— **Fairbanks Rescue Mission**  
THE DREAM was that THE MISSION operates overnight emergency shelter for men, women, and children in Interior Alaska, and therefore has a key role to play in the life of our community. The doors opened on February 14, 1974 (Valentine's Day).

**1980** — **Alaska Health Fair**  
This agency has been serving Alaska since 1980. Health Fairs are a unique event model where people can access free health education, screenings, and affordable blood tests. They still conduct close to 100 community events annually, around 35,000 people attend their events each year. THE DREAM: A physician believed that the road to longevity rests in healthy lifestyles, which develop, in part, through education and screenings.

**1982** — **Fairbanks Community Food Bank**  
THE DREAM of a few people in local churches, during the Recession of 1982, was that they could collect local surplus food and give it to people who need it. No child should go hungry in the Tanana Valley.

**1984** — **Love in the name of Christ**  
THE DREAM: Helping churches to help people (Church services network). This organization started in 1984 and one of their first tasks was to ask our community, through TRADIO, to help them find space for the volunteers to do their work. They were given donated space in the Polaris Building.

— **Bread Line, Inc**



**James Hunter**

The story began over 30 years ago, in 1984, when local residents James and Sharon Hunter encountered downtown neighbors who didn't have enough to eat. They started making sandwiches and distributing them from their backpacks to folks on the street. They soon realized there wasn't enough room in their backpacks to feed everyone in need. So James and Sharon went to Dick Farris and shared their concern. They approached a local church about the possibility of serving a hot, midday meal in the basement — The Bread Line community meal program was born. Their mission: to inspire community collaboration to feed people and affirm the lives of Fairbanks's most vulnerable neighbors.



## Our Mission Statement

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

## Board Members 2019

- President:** Uriah Nalikak
- Vice President:** Genevieve Bell
- Secretary:** Patty Walter
- Treasurer:** Hollis Hall
- Anna Atchison
- Tom Bartels
- Trevor Hanson
- Karen Kiss
- Doug Schrage
- Gene Therriault
- Ron Wall
- Mike Walsh

## Staff Leadership Team

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

## Contact Information

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 Fairbanks, Alaska 99701  
**Phone:** 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.**



# Your Legacy In Our Community

What have you done in the Tanana Valley to help our neighbors? Many of the founders of all the groups listed on pages 2-3 have gone on, moved away, or died. They started really good projects to help the people they cared most about, and ALL of their good ideas are STILL GOOD IDEAS in 2019. They are still functioning in the way the founders dreamed they would function. That means that the people of the Tanana Valley have supported these good ideas, fought the good fight during times of poor economic conditions, uncertainty, changes in regulations and laws, changes in staffing — all the things that happen each day in the lives of those who serve in local small non-profit organizations. Yes, we all acknowledge that 2019 has been tough on some of these non-profits and the people we (staff and volunteers of these organizations) LOVE TO SERVE. But there is a sense of passion and BIG DREAMS of sustainability for these agencies and the hundreds more which would be on this list except for lack of space.

HERE IS THE POINT: Your favorite local non-profit organizations have extraordinary accountability in our community. Don't be afraid to support them. If you want them to continue, support for them must continue, in economic good times and bad. They all need your volunteer time and donated dollars. When that stops, the organizations you love go away.

## Have you considered legacy giving?

One of the main reasons these organizations have been around so long is that people in the Tanana Valley not only give regularly but also need and appreciate your preparations for the next generation in your estate planning.

Some of these groups have a little government funding, but all rely on your small regular donations. They can be gone in a heartbeat when those donations stop during uncertain economic times, such as we are experiencing today. Example: This Food Bank was able to continue to function during the 3-6 months of the events surrounding September 9/11, 2001 BECAUSE many people had made payroll deduction pledges through United Way of the Tanana Valley. Without those pledges, this Food Bank would have closed our doors because all of us wanted to send our discretionary money to help those who were so affected by the events of 9/11. Local United Way giving, from people in our community, literally kept the doors of this Food Bank open. It was a good lesson to learn, and time to remember how important

it is to continue to support the groups you love in our community. How will you feel when they close their doors?

One of the main questions asked by many of our grantors is "Who will miss you when you are gone?"

