



HARVEST



Neighbors Helping Neighbors

Spring 2024

What's the future of this local food bank?

In 1982, during a Recession in Alaska, a few caring community people had a great idea. Let's make sure that no one in the Tanana Valley goes to bed hungry. 42 years later, that is still our mission.

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Helping Neighbors by the Pound

Alaska Peace Officers Association was SO CLOSE ... to collecting 100,000 pounds of food for the Thanksgiving food boxes.



Three Generations of Giving

The Hawks Enterprises and Landscaping crew continue to give to the families in our community on Thanksgiving. In this photo are Troy, Angie, Casey, Zach, Aaron, Moriah, Elliot, and Charlie ... and, of course, Anne Weaver, Sam's daughter.

AmeriCorp Volunteers Worked 'Til They Dropped!

AmeriCorp Volunteers worked ALL DAY on the day before Thanksgiving to make sure that at least 12,000 people who needed a food box in our community had a great Thanksgiving meal. Whew, we are done! This photo was taken at 5:30 pm, after a very long day of hard work.



What's the future ... (continued)

We salvage local surplus food and give it to those people who woke up this morning and did not have food in their household. Stuff happens to all of us. Loss of jobs, sickness, fires, floods, earthquakes, food stamp backlogs, politics (change in priorities on a statewide level). As one nine-year-old student told Sam many years ago, as we were touring the food bank and making a list of the reasons local people may not have enough food to eat today, he said, "But Sam, you forgot one reason. Sometimes it is just plain BAD LUCK." Sam had just told the story of the UAF student who was a single mom, and she was struggling — she had a part-time job and was almost making ends meet — and her young daughter was diagnosed with chicken pox, and medicine had to be purchased. The mom had to choose to purchase medicine for chicken pox, and we were so happy we were able to provide the food for them. Those are the types of stories we hear every day. We are a community that loves to share and take care of one another.

We just got a wonderful compliment from a national group that specializes in helping food banks get their messages out, and she said, "I have been watching your Thanksgiving food distribution prep on Facebook and am truly blown away by the generosity of the Fairbanks community."

Fairbanks is a unique place with the most giving local community. Perhaps it is the hardships of the weather, perhaps it is the attraction of

Thank You!
Ft. Wainwright Youth Center bring in donations of food and dollars.



1,000 Pounds of Commitment
One dedicated member of the Lathrop JROTC, Slater Jones, raised 1,000 pounds of food all on his own.



Lathrop JROTC
Want to know what 3,196 pounds of donated food looks like? Awesome job, Lathrop JROTC. You are rockstars!

First Responders Helping Neighbors
Ft. Wainwright fire fighter Wendy and four of the AK State Defense force members doing their part to make a difference by collecting food with Alan Mitchel at Fred Meyer Stores.





Giving is BUTTER-ful!

Johan is a local radio 94.3 announcer and he and his family decided to purchase BUTTER (because he LOVES butter and few people remember to buy it) for Thanksgiving food boxes. Anne gives him a big cheer. He purchased 224 sticks of butter.



4-H Kids Give Back

Free Range 4-H young volunteers collecting food for holiday food boxes.

Thank you, Hannah!

Hannah Weaver is a Monroe High School sophomore who spent all day long on the Wednesday before Thanksgiving recording all the food donated by the community that day, and all the food which went out in the food boxes.



living in a uniquely beautiful but challenging environment; perhaps it is simply the Golden Heart of Fairbanks because the

Baked With Love

Forget-Me-Not Girl Scouts make 90 loaves of fresh bread.



very best people choose to live here — but whatever the reason, we all seem to understand that SHARING IS CARING.

We read about other food banks throughout the world, and there are stories like this: "Some groups noted food insecurity continues to persist in the United States more than 50 years after the first food bank opened its doors ... the charitable food system absolves the government of responsibility to address food insecurity, they say. Rather than creating corporate incentives to support charitable food, the government should be building policies that address the root causes of food insecurity, which include poverty, income inequality, and unfair labor conditions. Charitable food upholds a 'false link' between food waste and food security, the groups say, when in fact, they say the focus should be on addressing the reasons people are food insecure in the first place, which include discrimination, and lack of access to food in their communities. Revaluing food waste cannot be an adequate solution to these deep-seated and structural problems."

Those are valuable thoughts, but in Fairbanks, we just say THANK YOU TO OUR COMMUNITY WHO CHOOSE TO SHARE AND CARE FOR ONE ANOTHER. And we feel blessed to be able to (1) collect local surplus food and (2) give it to people who need it.



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 2024

- President:** Gene Therriault
- Vice President:** Trevor Hanson
- Secretary:** Patty Walter
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- Derek Dickinson
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- Bob Hajdukovich
- Uriah Nalikak
- Marisa Sharrah
- Ron Wall

Staff Leadership Team

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

Contact Information

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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.**



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.

"Hello, I'm reaching out to you because my husband and I have not received food stamps for the last 3 months. Called today again and was told they haven't reviewed our application yet. They don't have any information on when they review it. They suggested we go to a food pantry. I haven't done this before. I'm not sure how it works. But my husband and I are disabled senior citizens and my husband also just finished chemotherapy and radiation for lung cancer. He is in need of a heart valve replacement, but he is not well enough at this time to have that done. He needs lots of good food at this time to get his strength up so he can have this surgery. We haven't had food stamps for the last 3 months. Thank you very much for anything you can do to help."



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