



Neighbors Helping Neighbors

Annual Report 2026

POLITICS FREE ZONE

Where Good Things Happen, MAY NO CHILD EVER GO HUNGRY!

As I write this, we are about to vote on our local, statewide, and national political leaders, and it has been a serious fundraising season for all of them. I want to give you a different topic to think about, because sometimes we get caught up in the excitement and concerns of hot political campaigns, and their relative importance, but there is more to life than politics.

We need to return our thoughts to a different kind of investment of time and money. We know all these public issues that are being discussed on

the political scene have importance. We care, but at the Fairbanks Community Food Bank, we also like to invest in a simpler form of direct and immediate help for the people we serve.

We have every denomination of church, every type of service organization, every political party, different genders, ages, and ethnic backgrounds represented

by the VOLUNTEERS who come here each day. Today, we have two people who are new to our country and who do not speak English, spending their time fixing lunch for the hard-working volunteers who are scrambling to get food boxes packed and delivered to distribution sites between 10 am and 1 pm.

In our community, we have neighbors who woke up this morning and did not know where their next meal would come from, and nearly half of the people we serve are local children. Our goal, at this local Food Bank, is to make sure our neighbors do not go to bed hungry.

It takes a lot of hands each day to collect, repackage, and distribute the food to those who need it, all over this borough.

One of the many blessings we have in this food bank warehouse is the joy and willingness of the volunteers to get this daily manual labor done.

Anne and the food bank staff make sure we are all pulling on the same end of the wagon, working together. We do not encourage the diversions of politics, taxes, religion, or other potentially divisive issues to interrupt work, which we think is really,

(Continued on Page 4)



Frequently Asked Questions

Q: When and why did this community start a food bank?

A: In 1982 in an economic Recession, we did not want anyone in the Fairbanks North Star Borough to go to bed hungry, and there was surplus food in our local grocery stores and home pantries which could be shared.

Q: What are the most important things we need donated to our local food bank operations?

A: DONATED FOOD, VOLUNTEERS, AND OPERATIONS FUNDS. We need all three of these things, and all are equally important. Our local food bank still receives free food and gives it away free. That doesn't seem like the best business plan in the world, but it has worked for 44 years.

Q: We also have a goal of keeping food waste out of our local landfill.

A: In 2025 we were able to purchase a BIODIGESTER which takes our food waste and turns it into a biofertilizer in a 24-hour cycle. We do not want to add to our local landfill problems.

Q: What is a FOOD BOX, and how often can a person request one?

A: Orders are taken 5 days/week from 10 am to noon. They are prepared by volunteers using the food which comes in from local food donors. Each person who requests a food box will receive a minimum of 20 pounds of food, which is 3 breakfasts, 3 lunches, and 3 dinners. A family of 4 people will receive 80 pounds of collected/donated food in a 3-day food box. Each person is eligible to receive 10 food box orders/year, plus Thanksgiving and Christmas food boxes.

Q: Does our local food bank receive USDA food to distribute?

A: Yes, that food has special requirements. Enrollment requirements are listed on our website at www.fairbanksfoodbank.org. Those are once-a-month food boxes for those who enroll in the 2 special USDA programs which are based on age and income.

Q: Are there special programs for children in our local food bank?

A: Yes, we make school boxes for each local school, requested by their teachers/counselors/school nurses. They are emergency snack boxes, not full food boxes.

Q: Are there special programs for medically referred patients?

A: Yes, we have had a FOOD IS MEDICINE program since 2019. We currently have 1000 patients enrolled in that program, and they can come 5 days/week to pick up 6 pounds of FRESH FOOD each day. The patient must have a medical referral every 6 months in order to access that program.

Q: How many pounds of local food has this food bank salvaged or collected since opening in 1982?

A: Over 85,000,000 pounds (yes, 85 million).

Q: How many volunteers come to do the work of this food bank each day?

A: 15-30 or more.

Q: How many pounds of food are collected each day?

A: 5 to 10 tons each day, 5 days/week.

Q: How many volunteers are students?

A: One-third of our workforce are students.

Q: How many volunteer hours has this food bank recorded since opening in 1982?

A: 750,000 hours. We need at least 75+ volunteer hours each day to get the daily work done.

Q: Who pays the bills for our local food bank?

A: Our buildings were built for us as a gift from Dennis Wise, so we have no mortgage payments, but we do need money to keep the lights on, pay the natural gas fuel bill and GVEA, keep the trucks on the road, and pay administrative costs. That money comes in these ways: 88% is Community funding, 4% is government funding, and 8% is earned income (sharing of space in our building).

If you have more questions, please call Sam at 907-388-4961. I love to tell you about the success of our local food bank in this community.

Your Donations at Work!

What does it cost to get the work of collecting local surplus food for people who need it, and also prevent the waste of valuable food in our landfill?

95% of all donations, including in-kind, go directly to feeding hungry people in Interior Alaska. Your financial gifts are partnered with donated facilities and 25,939 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 two million dollars. When you add the annual value of DONATED ITEMS (also known as IN-KIND) our annual operating budget is over ten million dollars. What types of items do we include in this added IN-KIND value?

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

That means our CASH needs are 1/5th 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 less than 20% of what we need, it is the glue that makes this whole community project work.

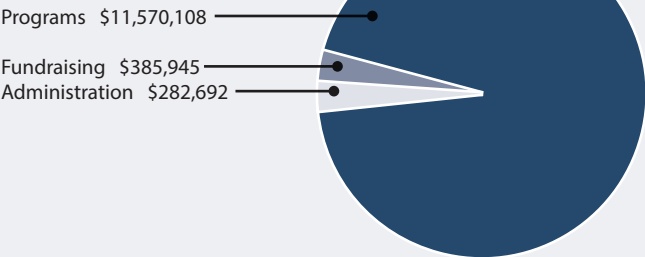
EVERY DOLLAR you donate is important to us!

- 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!**

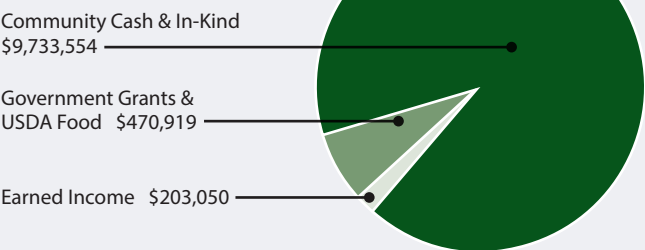
GOOD (still) HAPPENS HERE (As we celebrate 44 years of an impossible community business plan)

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 the Fairbanks Community Food Bank. Thank you!

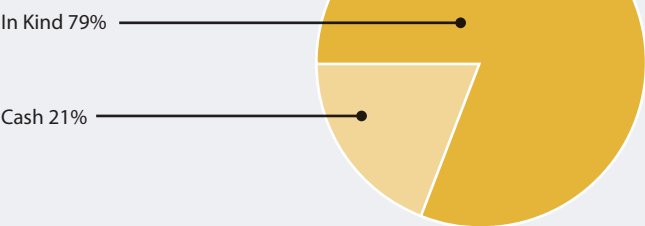
Actual FY2026 Expenses CASH & IN-KIND



Actual FY2026 INCOME CASH & IN-KIND



Actual FY2026 CASH & IN-KIND



GOOD HAPPENS	GOAL Annual	ACTUAL July 2024- June 2025	ACTUAL July 2025- June 2026
Food Bank Meals Served	350,000	873,103	863,115
Food Distributed by the Food Bank to Other Local Agencies	450,000	1,053,547	1,284,014
Pounds of Food Received	1,500,000	3,415,603	3,395,509
Volunteer Hours	13,200	27,042	25,939
Cost Per Meal		\$1.43	\$1.51

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



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 2026

President: Trevor Hanson
Board Member since 2018

Vice President and Board

Treasurer: Ray Bronson
Board Member since 2021

Secretary: Marisa Sharrah
Board Member since 2020

Treasurer: Ray Bronson
Board Member since 2021

Genevieve Bell
Board Member since 2018

Derek Dickinson
Board Member since 2023

Bob Hajdukovich
Board Member since 2021

Nancy Hanson
Board Member since 2021

Chad Hutchison
Board Member since 2021

Uriah Nalikak
Board Member since 2016

Gene Theriault
Board Member since 2016

Eric Spitzer
Board Member since 2026

Patty Walter
Board Member since 2016

Ian Zeisel
Board Member since 2026

Staff Leadership Team

Anne Weaver, CEO
Samantha Kirstein, Community
Development Director

Contact Information

725 26th Avenue
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701
Phone: (907) 45-SHARE (457-4273)

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

Where Good Things Happen

(Continued from Page 1)

really important to the people of our community TODAY.

Children and elders need to eat, and we can help.

We have local surplus food, and a way to collect and store it.

As a team of hard-working volunteers, we can make good things happen!

As a community, we do not have to rely on government resources first, but rather on the generosity of our local neighbors. The Food Bank is a first responder in times of need. There are other longer-term programs (like SNAP and VET Center) available to those we serve. Many of our customers have challenges that are greater than finding a meal today (such as injured workers and disabled VETS). The good news is that this local Food Bank can recycle local surplus food and give it to hurting people who need it TODAY while they wait on other services to kick in with the longer-term help they need.

It is right for neighbors to help one another, and it is a lower cost to our community.

I look around in amazement when I find myself explaining to some members of our community that these hard-working volunteers who collect local surplus food and repackage it for those who need it, are not ENABLING those we serve with food boxes. We are RECYCLING and asking our community to SHARE, so we can help our neighbors who are having a difficult time making ends meet today — whatever their reasons may be.

In many cases, the cost of capturing one political vote is so much more than the cost of recovering and sharing one plate of food for our neighbors. Both are important. We need to stand shoulder to shoulder to make sure we work constructively together at all levels of community service and development of public policy. A healthy community takes all of us pulling on the same end of the wagon, and supporting one another in our different calls to service.

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.



THANK YOU to two Retiring Board Members:



Hollis Hall:
1999 – 2026 (27 years)
Now EMERITUS



Ron Wall
2019 – 2026 (7 years)