



FOOD BANK
of ALASKA

Your IMPACT

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Mobile Food Pantries - A Staple in Local Neighborhoods

The Mobile Food Pantry (MFP) Program was established in May 2006 with the help of John Arnold, Susannah Morgan and the East Anchorage Rotary. It allows for the distribution of hard to move and perishable items for fast, flexible delivery of rescued food and grocery products. When Food Bank of Alaska receives donated perishable food, such as fruits and vegetables, it is often close to the end of its life.

Our MFP distribution works diligently to provide this fresh food to families in need while it is still nutritious. Food Bank of Alaska coordinates MFP distribution through a network of 10 sponsoring agencies. In Anchorage we have grown from five to nine locations, strategically placed in areas of high need, allowing people who lack appropriate or accessible transportation to be served.

Over the past 15 years, MFP volunteers have spent over 75,000 hours to assist community members in accessing 16,780,000+ pounds of food. We now distribute over 1,100,000 pounds annually in Anchorage.

MFP SPONSORS
Lutheran Church of Hope
Muldoon Community Assembly
New Season Community Dev.
St. John United Methodist Church
ChangePoint Alaska
New Hope Baptist Church
Jewel Lake Church of the Nazarene
First CME Church
Anchorage East Rotary
Greater Friendship Baptist

“The MFP makes a tremendous difference to help feed (my) family. If the MFP didn’t have fresh fruits and vegetables I would not be able to buy them at the store. I would only afford what is needed for the next meal.”

– Anonymous client



Food for the Future

Food Bank of Alaska serves the entire state, along with three Partner Distribution Organizations who collect and distribute food in their service areas, including the Fairbanks Community Food Bank, Southeast Alaska Food Bank, and the Kenai Peninsula Food Bank. We work with 150+ agencies statewide, including pantries, meal programs, kids' programs, and more. In FY21, we distributed 11 million pounds of food – the equivalent of 9.2 million meals – which was a record for our organization.

The COVID-19 pandemic created a public health and economic crisis like nothing we have ever faced. At the start of the pandemic, we and our partners saw a sharp 75% spike in the demand for food assistance. While the demand for food assistance has declined somewhat since the height of the pandemic, the need remains elevated compared to pre-pandemic times and we anticipate heightened demand for food assistance over the coming years.

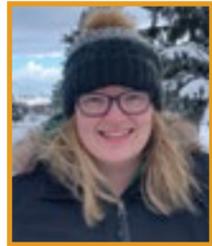
Because of you, we are fortunate to now be operating in our new facility which allows us the capacity and flexibility to meet the current and future food needs of Alaskans. As a part of looking forward, we have updated our Strategic Plan to reflect efficiencies, opportunities, new partnerships, and creative ways of serving Alaskans statewide. This spring, we will be opening a new facility in the Mat-Su Valley to increase distribution efficiency. At the same time, we will be working to build our partnerships in rural communities in order to increase food access and availability. It truly takes a network of neighbors helping neighbors to ensure that no Alaskan goes hungry.

Your continued generosity makes our mission possible.



Jim Baldwin
Chief Executive Officer

Volunteer Spotlight



"I was born and raised here in Anchorage, and even though I've volunteered with other non-profits before, I feel like I know my community better after my time with Food Bank of Alaska. I still have a lot to learn but I'm so grateful to be a little more connected."

Volunteers are a critical part of Food Bank of Alaska's operations. Merry Engebretson registered to volunteer in March 2020 and shortly thereafter her employer, Ravn Alaska, filed for bankruptcy. Being laid off was devastating, but Merry soon became a regular volunteer at the Emergency Food Distribution event which was set up overnight to support the increase in food insecurity that was created by the pandemic. Volunteers handed out food boxes to an average of 537 households per week, totaling 36,000 households between April 2020 and May 2021.

During the winter, registering clients in the often freezing weather was hard work but Merry showed up every week with a pair of earmuffs and a welcoming smile. "It was really impactful to see people hanging in there, and that we were all working together to try to make it better." Merry soon brought her husband Austin and sister Lacey along, "to contribute to our home in a valuable way."

After the Emergency Food Distribution ended in May 2021, Merry started volunteering at a Mobile Food Pantry. "The fruit and bread would sometimes get smashed when packed into the bags for clients, so I brought boxes from home whenever I could. I wanted to preserve the dignity for people picking up food."

Merry's fight against hunger has also extended to her professional work. She was rehired by Ravn Alaska as their Human Resources Manager when they resumed operations in fall 2020. In September 2021 Merry championed a company-wide food drive as a part of their initiative dedicated to community service. Ravn Alaska employees collected 582 pounds of food, which was then matched by a \$1,000 company donation. In addition, Food Bank of Alaska and Ravn have been piloting a program to ship senior food boxes to St. Paul Island. Ravn has delivered 1,478 lbs. and counting of food to the St. Paul community at no cost.

Isabel and Al Milspaugh have been delivery driver volunteers for over three years. Every month, they team up to deliver food boxes to the homes of six low-income seniors in east Anchorage. These food boxes contain nutritious food including juice, cereal, canned fruits and vegetables, and milk, all provided by the USDA Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP). Over 24,000 CSFP food boxes are distributed yearly across Alaska.



"It's a two-way street because it is so rewarding for us, too."

"A lot of people don't volunteer because they don't feel they're qualified. I say everybody's qualified because there's always help if you have questions. You learn by doing it and by making mistakes," said Al.

Both have made strong connections with their clients. "Some don't have relatives or contacts for support, so we really enjoy connecting with them," said Isabel. Al adds, "The seniors really appreciate the direct contact and how a volunteer personally brings them their food every month."

Neither are strangers to service. Al started volunteering at 11 years old with the Boys Scouts of America and served 20 years with the United States Air Force. They were State Ombudsmen for senior citizens and acted as coaches for their children's sports teams, among countless other community roles. Both were honored by the 32nd Alaska State Legislature for their contributions to their country, state, and community and we are honored for their support of our mission and programs.

2022 "Food" Year's Resolution

A new year is about new traditions! How about a food resolution? We're asking you to make one food-centric resolution to carry through the rest of 2022. Once you make this resolution, please share it out on social media with the hashtags **#FoodSecurityWeek** and **#FoodYearsResolution**.



Investing in Alaska's Food System

Did you know that...

- ✈️ Alaska imports roughly 95% of food purchased, which translates to roughly \$1.9 billion leaving the state?
- 📅 We have a 3- to 5-day supply of most foods in grocery stores, leaving us especially vulnerable to supply chain disruptions?
- ♥️ There is a high desire for healthy, nutritious food among low-income Alaskans, and that 81% of Food Bank of Alaska clients report purchasing unhealthy, processed food because it was the cheapest option?

Alaska has endless opportunities to improve food security by strengthening our food system, from production to distribution to consumption. Alaska needs more in-state food production, and this nutritious, local food needs to be more accessible to low-income Alaskans. Through increasing infrastructure and developing markets, agriculture could be a key player in building a stronger, more sustainable future for Alaska. A robust food system would increase access to fresh, local, healthy foods, create new economic opportunities, and ensure that we are equipped to handle whatever the future holds.

Federal COVID recovery funding provides a unique opportunity to strengthen Alaska's food system, which will have tremendous positive impact in both the short and long term. Food Bank of Alaska is proud to partner with the Alaska Food Policy Council, the Alaska Farm Bureau, the Alaska Farmers Market Association, and others to provide recommendations on strategic investments in Alaska food system. Recommendations include:

- Establish and expand local food purchasing programs, such as farm to food bank programs and incentive programs to help low-income Alaskans shop at farmers markets. Guaranteed markets will give farmers security in expanding

operations, and will help address the heightened levels of hunger Alaska has seen in the past year.

- Invest in food system infrastructure, such as cold storage, processing and manufacturing facilities, and shared-use kitchen facilities. Without infrastructure, there is only a certain amount of growth in food production Alaska will realize, and we know many of Food Bank of Alaska's partners need more cold, dry, and frozen storage.
- Address transportation barriers, including those with the ferry system and bypass mail. Supplemental transportation funding would help to equitably distribute nutritious food throughout the state.
- Increase food system workforce development, which will strengthen the resiliency of our state's food system while creating career pathways and a long-term workforce.

For the full list of 2022 Food Systems Priorities, visit foodbankofalaska.org/advocate, and click on Action Alerts & Policy Priorities.



11,073,479 net lbs.
FOOD DISTRIBUTED

This is a 2,056,177-pound (23%) increase over FY20. With the increased support of volunteers, partners, donors, and government agencies, Food Bank of Alaska was equipped to meet the challenge of an unprecedented level of food insecurity in Alaska brought on by the effects of the COVID pandemic.

1,191,380 meals
PROVIDED THROUGH SNAP

Due to our SNAP outreach and application assistance efforts.

24,228
SENIOR BOXES DISTRIBUTED

Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP) is a USDA program designed to supplement the nutritional needs of qualified seniors 60 years and older. These are all boxed by our wonderful volunteers.

22,495+ hours
WORKED BY 1,459 VOLUNTEERS

1,740,791 lbs.
DISTRIBUTED THROUGH MOBILE FOOD PANTRIES (MFPs)

MFPs distribute fresh food to families in need, including produce, dairy products, and bread. These are currently operating by a drive-through model. We work with 10 sponsoring agencies that conduct an MFP at nine convenient locations in neighborhoods around Anchorage.

168,378 meals
THROUGH CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAMS

This includes our Summer Food Service Program (SFSP), Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP), Knowledge Needs Nutrition (KNN), and Hunger Is.

28,821 TEFAP boxes
DISTRIBUTED THROUGHOUT ALASKA

8,282 families
SERVED AT THANKSGIVING BLESSING

4,800
MEALS-TO-YOU SHIPPED

Shipped directly to children in the Aleutians and Yakutat.

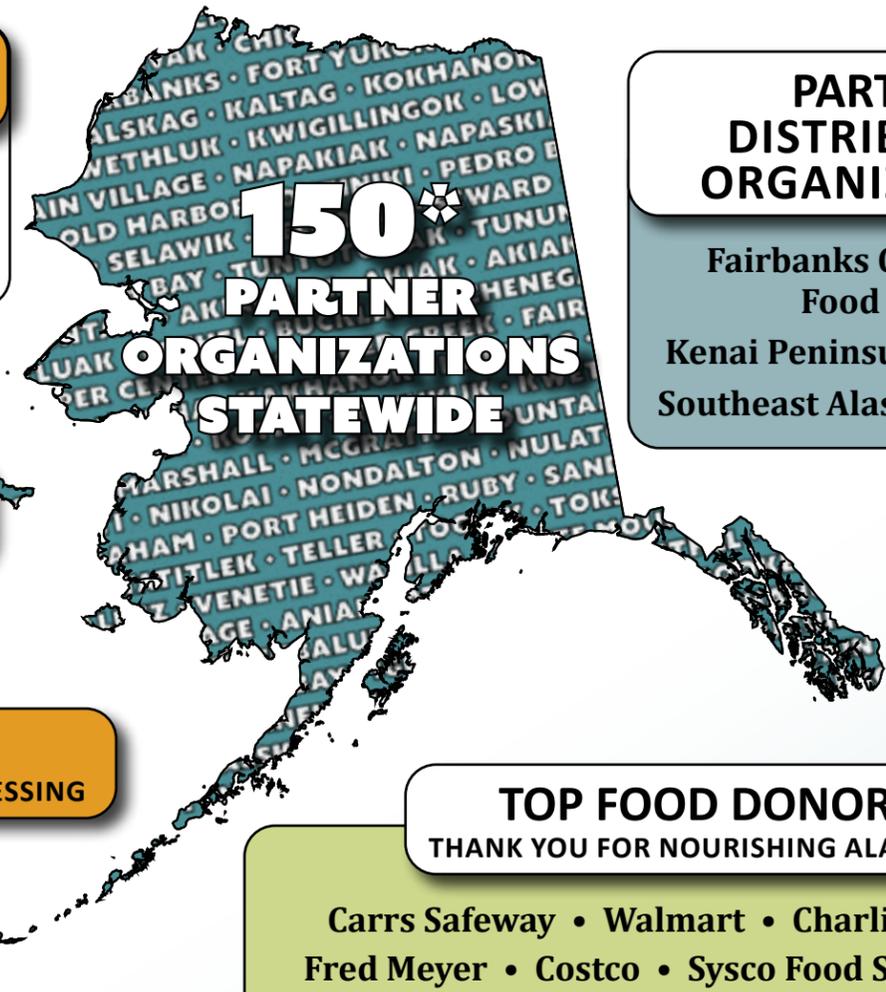
2,399,540 lbs.
DONATED BY RETAIL DONORS

TRANSPORTATION DONORS
COMPANIES THAT DONATED FREIGHT TRANSPORT

TOTE Maritime Alaska
Matson, Inc. • Lynden Transport, Inc.
Weaver Bros., Inc.

PARTNER DISTRIBUTION ORGANIZATIONS

Fairbanks Community Food Bank
Kenai Peninsula Food Bank
Southeast Alaska Food Bank



TOP FOOD DONORS
THANK YOU FOR NOURISHING ALASKANS

Carrs Safeway • Walmart • Charlie's Produce
Fred Meyer • Costco • Sysco Food Services of AK
SeaShare • Pepsi Beverage Company of AK
Target • Alaska Commercial Company
DiTomaso's • Seafood Producer COOP
U.S. Foodservice, Inc. • Peterkin Distributors
Nabisco Foods Group • Great Harvest Bread Co.
Paragon Distributors



*74 additional temporary agencies have been added this past year in response to COVID-19.

Knowledge Needs Nutrition

"I had two students come to me and their counselor and inform us they were living on their own and were struggling with paying for food, gas etc. They were living with his parents but had been kicked out due to a disagreement. The girl stated she had no family here and had been couch surfing for quite some time before moving in with her boyfriend.

I was informed the only meals readily available to them were at school. Their counselor was able to help them with gas cards to get to and from school and work, and because of Food Bank of Alaska's Knowledge Needs Nutrition (KNN) program I was able to provide meals for them for after school and the weekends, as well as the in-service days that we have.

Some of the kids became aware of other classmates being in need of items. They have been bringing things in to me so that we can prepare essential item bags for them. Noticing that I had a lot of food from KNN, they helped me bring it in, unpack it and place it in the areas where we store the food. They also helped me pack after school bags for the kids who need it the most. These kids began advocating for the ones who need the additional help by showing them where it is and who to come to for assistance. Even making sure that the kids who do need the food do not feel embarrassed by asking. They have purchased out of their own money drawstring bags, ziplock bags, and donated reusable bags so that the kids do not feel singled out when they grab items."

*Reporting from the school nurse,
Benny Benson Alternative High School*



**FOOD BANK
of ALASKA**

907.272.3663

Our Mission

Food Bank of Alaska is dedicated to eliminating hunger in Alaska by obtaining and providing food to partner agencies feeding hungry people and through anti-hunger leadership. We believe that no one deserves to be hungry.

foodbankofalaska.org

