



*Growing to*

**MEET  
THE  
NEED**

2019 Impact Report

# The Need

2019 was a year of productivity and growth for the Issaquah Food & Clothing Bank, accompanied by the humbling reminder of how extensive the need is in our region. We are encouraged by you, our dedicated volunteers and generous donors who are the heart of this organization.

**With your help, we've made some great strides:**

- **Mobile Food Bank**—In 2019, we successfully piloted our Mobile Food Bank, allowing us to meet those in need exactly where they are and reduce waste.
- **New Warehouse**—In late August of 2018, we moved all long-term non-perishables to a 3,000 sq. ft. warehouse to better utilize our primary space, increase service capacity, and reach more people.
- **Expanding our Self-Select Model**—Starting in the summer of 2019, we transitioned both our Lunch for the Break and Summer Lunch programs to the same self-select model we use in our market, increasing dignity and enabling us to offer a wider selection of healthy food to our youngest clients.

In 2019, we completed an extensive analysis using data from the Issaquah School District, Census, and Community Needs Assessment. Results indicate that, as of early 2020, we were meeting just 21% of the need in our community. With the loss of income and other factors disproportionately affecting those in mid-to-low income brackets as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, that gap continues to widen. **Thank you for your continued partnership as we pivot to address this increased need both immediately and for the long-term. Here are just a few of those initiatives:**

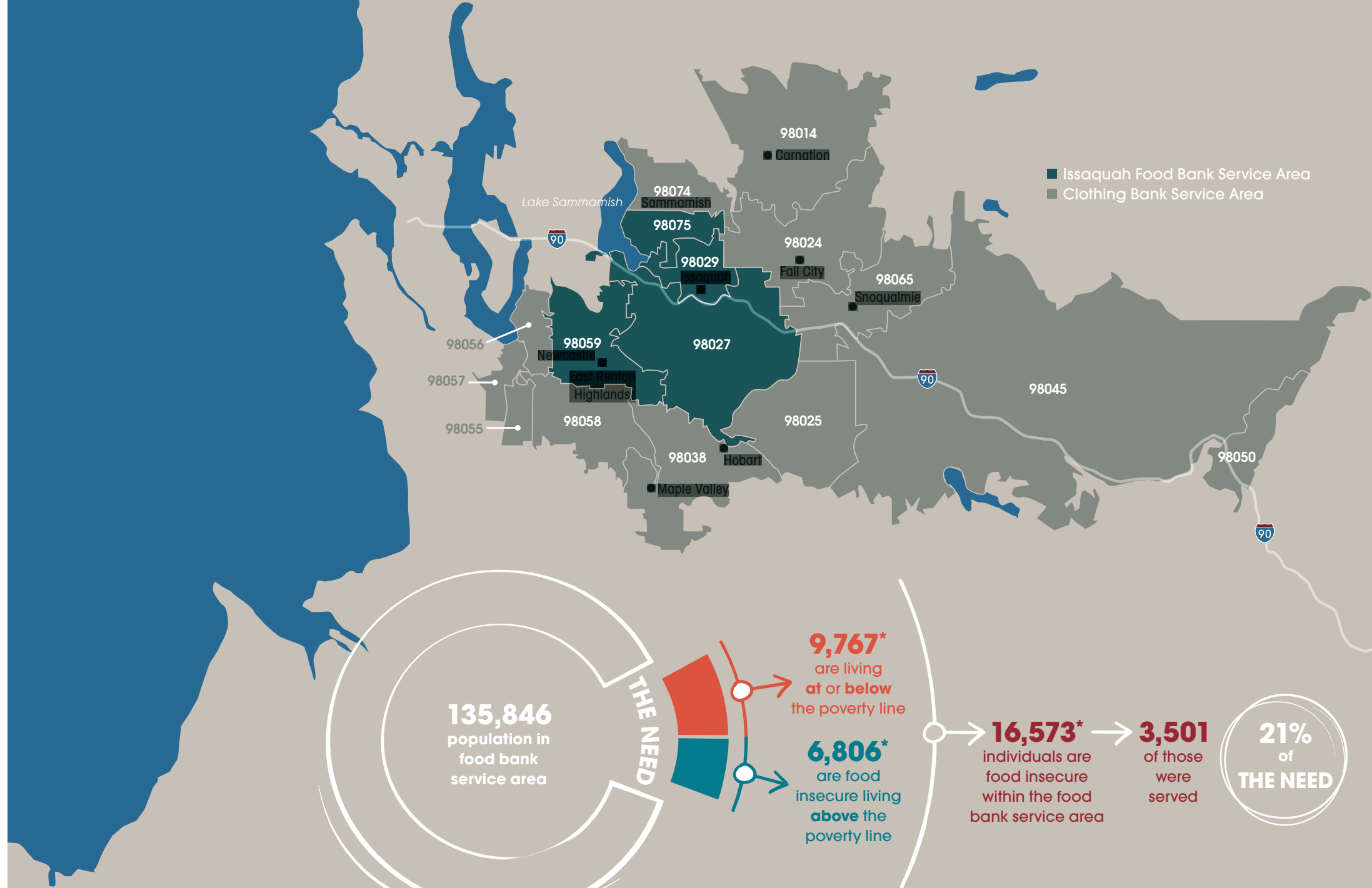
- Continually evaluating programs and processes to ensure the **safest possible distribution** of basic needs resources given our limited facility capacity.
- **Launch the Mobile Integrated Healthcare program.** In collaboration with Eastside Fire & Rescue, this program helps identify those in crisis and assists them in navigating the complex network of service providers. We are hoping this program will be safe to start by late 2020.
- **Continue to seek out a viable facility expansion option.** Simply put, we are out of space in our current facility, which creates a significant constraint on our ability to meet the true need around us.

We hope you find this report encouraging, knowing that you are making an impact on over 5,000 community members and that, together, we will reach more and more of those in need.

Gratefully,

Cori Walters  
Executive Director

Tom Ehlers  
Board Chair



# A Mother's Heart

By Bonnie DeCaro-Monahan

For anyone who loves a child, you know that the lengths you will go to protect and care for them can exceed anything you imagined possible. For Maria and her husband, they learned first-hand what that would entail when their lives were turned upside down by a criminal.

They lived a rather normal life in their home country; he was a biologist working in the area of food and quality control for a supermarket chain and she worked as an administrative assistant. Sadly, a man traumatized the family and their safety and security was no longer assured. Depression hit and the need to protect their children became the focus of every decision. When a judicial ruling resulted in the early release of the criminal who harmed their family, his freedom threatened theirs. They felt forced to flee to the United States and are still seeking the support of an attorney who can help them gain asylum in this country.

With support from therapists, their biggest challenge was helping their children to feel safe

at school again. The combination of the traumatic experience and the language barrier have made it especially difficult for the children to feel comfortable in social settings. Maria shared her heart's desire that her children would be "...more confident, that they feel accepted by their culture, and that they can have a group of friends to grow up with like any other normal child without fear that they may be harmed."

The family moved first to Kalamazoo, Michigan, where Maria immediately enrolled in English classes. After studying there for a year, they relocated to Issaquah to follow a job offer that Maria received. Maria has continued her English and accounting studies, now as a full-time student at Bellevue College and her husband is currently enrolled in online classes. Working as a painter and in construction in the U.S., he has found that the language barrier and weather delays can significantly affect the consistency of work, creating instability in their family income.

As he expands his knowledge of the English language, he hopes to get a license and his own tools so that he can work independently. For Maria, she hopes to grow in confidence in her English language proficiency and gain experience in her new accounting profession by helping a local non-profit before officially launching her new career.

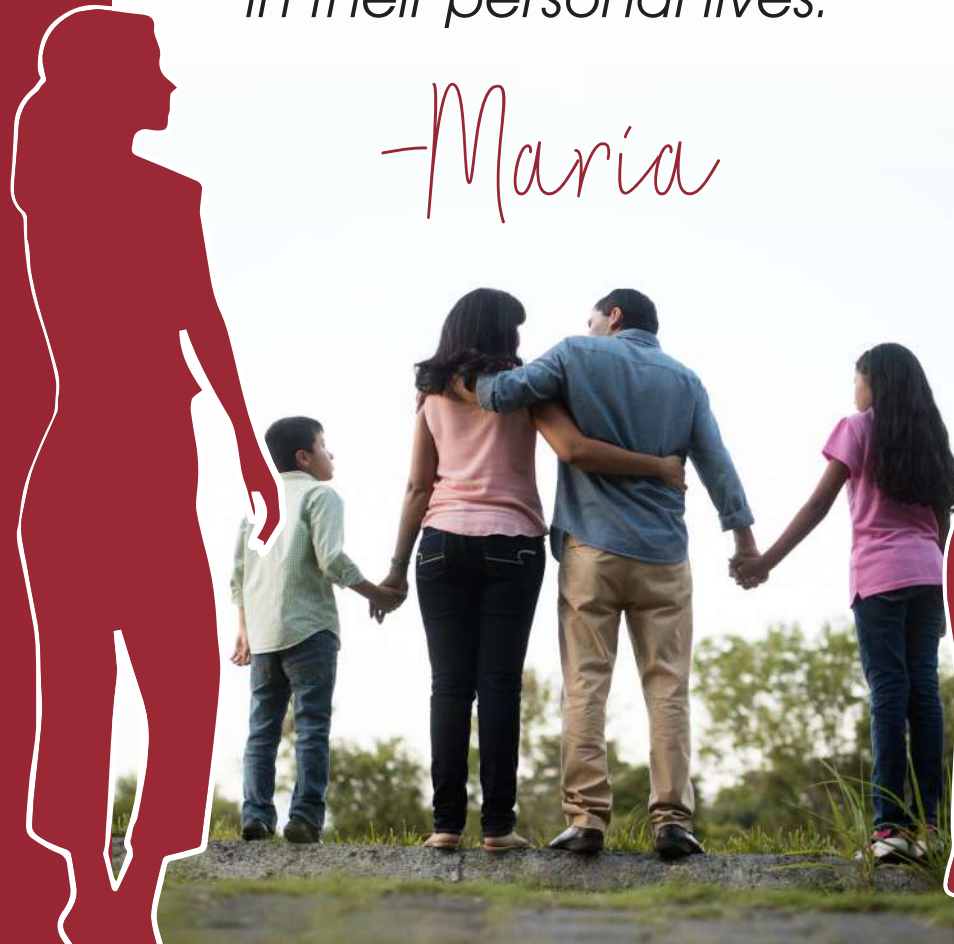
With the help of the Issaquah Food & Clothing Bank, Issaquah Community Services, and Open Door Multi Families, Maria and her family were able to find help accessing food, housing, and rental assistance during the early months of their transition. Maria explained, "I met Erin and Rebecca (at the Issaquah Food & Clothing Bank), who listened to me and supported me in the food service and payment of my rent when I was in an emergency and also with clothes for bad weather. Rebecca supported us to find transportation and coordinate with an agency called Furniture Bank to give us furniture; beds and everything related to the needs of a home, because we arrived in the

Issaquah area with nothing. My children have been invited and included to receive gifts for Christmas and for the birthday of my son, they gave him a cake in his name."

"Among all the things that happened to us in the past, since I met Erin and Rebecca, I have been very grateful to God for having helped me to start again here in this country." Shared Maria, adding, "I see in the future that I will be able to pay for the professional studies of my children, and that they can be successful in their personal lives. I also see myself supporting the Hispanic communities and Issaquah Food Bank in everything that is required for people who are just starting out like me, so that they can feel that life has meaning and that they are not alone. God always tests us, he put people like Erin and Rebecca in my life to know that life has a meaning and not everything is lost. Thank you, Issaquah Food Bank, for all this great effort that you did and are doing for my family."

*"I see in the future that I will be able to pay for the professional studies of my children, and that they can be successful in their personal lives."*

*-Maria*

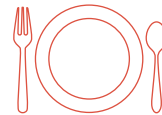


# MOBILE FOOD PROGRAMS

 <b>GROCERIES TO GO</b>	<p>Our home delivery service provides food to clients facing transportation, health, aging, or other challenges that make it difficult to shop at the food bank in person.</p> <p><b>4,600</b> Deliveries</p>
<b>MOBILE FOOD BANK</b>	<p>Our new Mobile Food Bank program provides a “pop-up” food bank in local housing developments each month.</p> <p><b>850+</b> Services provided</p>



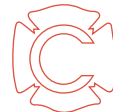
# 2019 Growth



We served 18% more people in our food bank with **57,523** individual food bank visits and **1,279** households served



The food bank brought in 1.6 million pounds of food; a 28% increase over 2018



We've partnered with Eastside Fire & Rescue to implement a Mobile Integrated Healthcare program, which helps identify needs around us and provides longer-term solutions for community members that are currently using 911



Youth and mobile food programs grew an average of 41%



A donor implemented the Issaquah-Sammamish Food Project, rallying neighborhood coordinators to help collect in-kind donations every two months.



We successfully piloted a Mobile Food Bank program and started 2020 in two different communities twice per month with a “pop-up” food bank








Our volunteer hours increased 18% with volunteer time equaling 13 full-time employees in 2019



We transitioned both our Summer Lunch and Lunch for the Break programs indoors to our market and began to provide families a self-select model with more and healthier options

# YOUTH PROGRAMS

 <b>Tools4School</b> <small>geared for success from day one</small>	<p>In partnership with the Issaquah Schools Foundation, school-aged children are provided with new backpacks and school supplies.</p> <p><b>1,000+</b> Filled backpacks</p>
 <b>POWER PACKS</b>	<p>Issaquah School District counselors and nurses distribute weekend bags of kid-friendly food to help end weekend hunger.</p> <p><b>7,200</b> Packs distributed</p>
 <b>HOLIDAY GIFT BARN</b>	<p>Pickering Barn is turned into a department store for a week in December, allowing families to shop and self-select just the right gifts for their children.</p> <p><b>1,400</b> Children served</p>
 <b>LUNCH FOR THE BREAK</b>	<p>Supplemental breakfast, lunch, and snack foods are provided for school-aged children during 1-2 week-long school breaks.</p> <p><b>1,350+</b> Visits</p>
 <b>SUMMER LUNCH</b>	<p>Additional kid-friendly food is available for families to self-select each week while children are home all day during the summer.</p> <p><b>5,000</b> Bags provided</p>



# BOB GRAY LEADERSHIP AWARD

## Jim & Chris Berry—2019 Winners

In honor of our late Founder, Bob Gray, we recognize those who exemplify his compassion, commitment, and selflessness in pursuit of our mission.



Who ever said that magical things couldn't come from a blind date? Chris & Jim Berry's 50-year marriage started this way and together, they are a force for good. At some point in time, Jim has been involved in many of the major non-profit organizations and service groups in our community, and since her retirement from 48 years as a nurse, Chris has jumped in as well. We feel so fortunate that they have chosen the Issaquah Food & Clothing Bank as one of the main organizations to which they give their time and energy.

Jim first became involved at the Issaquah Food & Clothing Bank over 10 years ago by volunteering in the food bank and representing the Issaquah Rotary at annual Mayors' Month of Concern food drives. Having what is now 25 years of experience with the Salmon Days Run, Jim was quick to lend his expertise

to Heather Matthews, founder of the Issaquah Turkey Trot, to assist in her efforts to raise funds and awareness for the Issaquah Food & Clothing Bank. For the past 9 years, Jim has been instrumental in creating sustainable practices for growth, planning and preparing routes, and connecting with neighbors and businesses along the route to help make the Issaquah Turkey Trot as safe and successful as possible. Whether he is riding his bike along the route pre-event or watching a solid stream of people run down Front Street Thanksgiving morning, Jim says, "It's one of my best days of the year!"

About 5 years ago, Chris & Jim learned that college friends of theirs had founded the Thurston County Food Project in Olympia and Jim went down to observe. This idea brewed until Chris retired from her 41 years at Swedish Hospital in October of

2018 and they felt prepared to take it on themselves. They visited Food Project founders in Ashland, Oregon, as well as spin-off projects in Oregon and Arizona. The Food Project founders had done all the heavy lifting, creating turnkey resources to make it relatively easy for others to replicate what they were doing. Chris and Jim committed themselves to keeping the Issaquah Sammamish Food Project as simple as possible, both for themselves and for the Neighborhood Coordinators who are instrumental in the project.

Chris and Jim officially launched the Issaquah Sammamish Food Project in the Spring of 2019. Since that time, they have rallied 32 Neighborhood Coordinators and over 300 local community members to provide approximately 13,000 pounds of food for the Issaquah Food & Clothing Bank! Jim's desire is to grow the project as big as the community can support with the hope of finding people who are excited about joining them in a leadership role in the Food Project, including helping with collection dates and Neighborhood Coordinator recruitment.

"There are so many wonderful people in this world and there are so many unsettling things going on in the world. But at the grassroots, we are a really good, caring, generous community and it's uplifting to meet people that want to be a part of making a difference and helping to

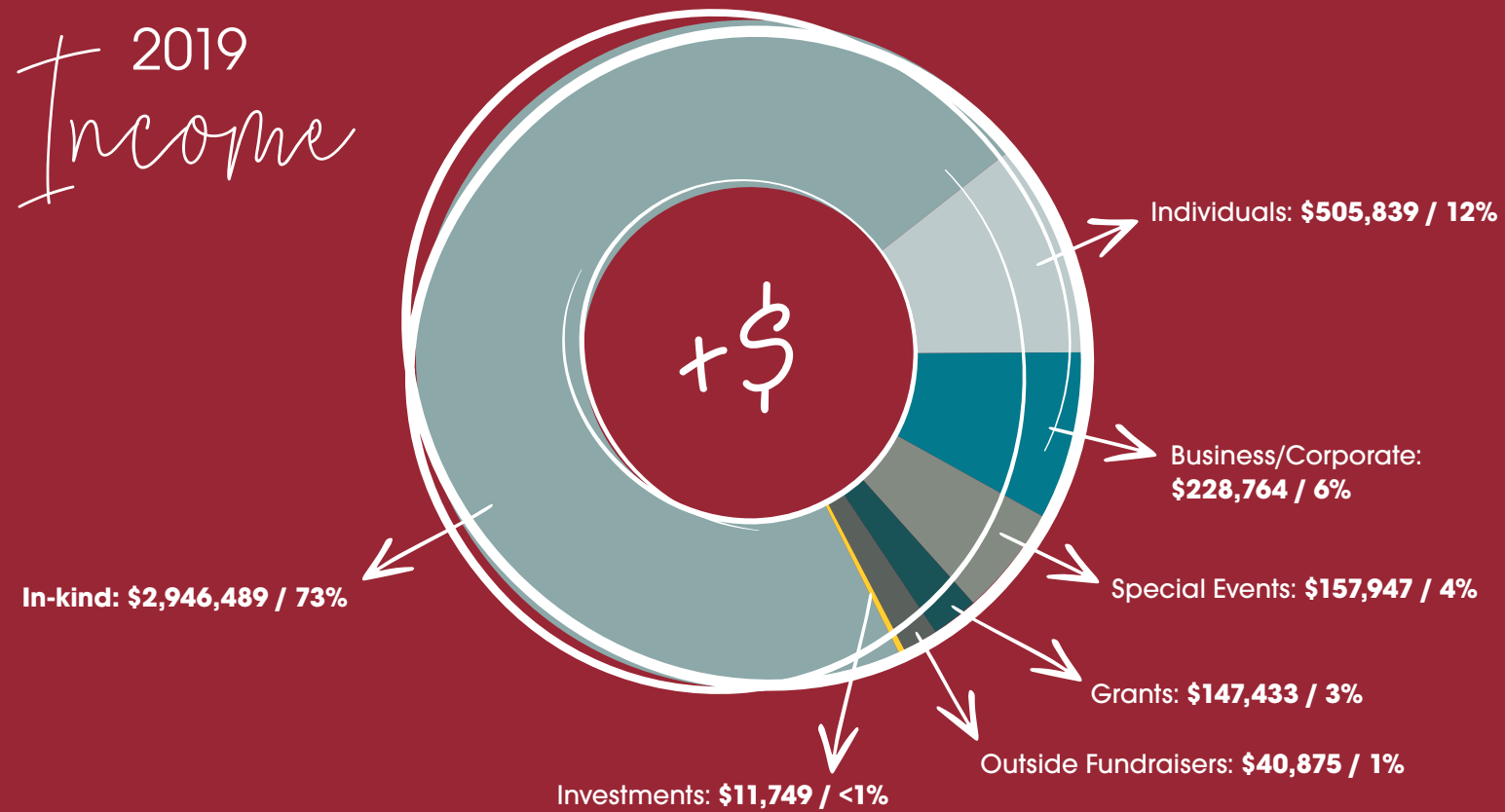
improve the lives of others in need," shared Chris. She is inspired by the Neighborhood Coordinators who already have a lot on their plates, but still choose to get involved, and by their appreciation for the opportunity to participate in such a meaningful project.

In addition to the Issaquah Sammamish Food Project, Chris is involved with Eastside Friends of Seniors, building a relationship with a woman battling cancer, helping her get to support groups and providing companionship. Even though he officially retired 15 years ago, Jim's work ethic hasn't changed. He's been involved with the Issaquah Schools Foundation, Sammamish YMCA, Mountains to Sound Greenway, Youth Mental Health Initiative, and has finally stepped down as a founding member of the Friends of Lake Sammamish State Park Board.

When they're not working to make our community a better place to live, Chris and Jim love to travel, read, go outdoors, gather with friends, and take in Village Theatre. In the fall, they took a 50-year anniversary trip to Europe. They also love time on Kauai and Jim says that he relaxes by "laying on the beach in Hawaii for a month and worrying about when I'm going to turn over!" You've earned it Chris and Jim! Thank you for making such a tremendous impact on our mission to reduce food insecurity in our community!



2019  
Income



2019  
Expenses



## OUR FUNDING PARTNERS

### Pioneer \$30,000+



### Visionary \$10,000+



### Premier \$5,000+

Bellevue Breakfast Rotary  
 Rotary Club of Sammamish  
 Miller Family Dermatology  
 Metropolitan Market  
 Christian Manley Orthodontics  
 Health-E Pro  
 NAES Corporation

First Tech Federal Credit Union  
 Ben & Jerry's  
 Opus Community Foundation  
 Snoqualmie Tribe  
 Wells Fargo  
 McDonalds

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Gloria Hatcher-Mays

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Jay Naillon

Kashif Zahoor

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Cori Walters, *Executive Director*

Bonnie DeCaro-Monahan, *Development Director*

Mike Hatada, *Food & Clothing Bank Manager*

Rebecca Rice, *Community & Social Services Manager*

Erin Longchari, *Program Manager*

John Rittenhouse, *Project Manager*

Lisa Haynes, *Volunteer Coordinator*

Jaek Avants, *Client Services Coordinator*

Kim Charvet Skok, *Operations Coordinator*

Amy Langlois, *IT Project Manager and Database Administrator*

Claire Lee, *Development & Communications Assistant*

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