

SINCE **ISSAQUAH** 1971
Food & Clothing Bank

2021 Impact Report



50 YEARS OF COMMUNITY
COMPASSION



Helping our Community Thrive

In 2021, we celebrated 50 years of community compassion since our organization was first founded by Pastor Bob Gray. We are grateful for all the hands and hearts that make this vital work possible!

In year two of pandemic operations, we were thrilled to not only remain open, but to maintain in-store shopping, increase food deliveries by 60% for those unable to get to the food bank, and expand our personalized case-management care to connect clients with needed services.

Here are some highlights of how you helped in 2021:

- Over 6,000 people received healthy food and crucial resources
- Volunteers donated over 19,000 hours to collect, sort, and distribute resources
- In-kind and financial donations helped us maintain healthy food options despite food supply shortages and increased costs

There are over 9,000 people in our service area facing food insecurity (*Feeding America, 2021*). Due to the increases in food, gas, and housing costs, combined with the loss of most COVID-related support, that number is likely to grow. To better address these needs, we are taking several actions in 2022:

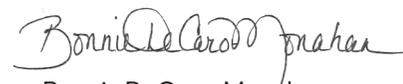
- Increasing our operational efficiency to serve more people with our existing capacity
- Assessing changes in clients' needs and updating our strategic plan to ensure that we are positioned to best meet those needs into the future
- Evaluating a potential new facility to address our need for a more effective space that will enable us to better serve our community.

You are a huge part of this effort, and we love partnering with you to help our community thrive. Thank you for continuing the journey alongside us!

Gratefully,



Mike Bresko
Board Chair



Bonnie DeCaro-Monahan
Development Director



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Solo Parenting Through a Pandemic

By Bonnie DeCaro-Monahan

None of us are strangers to the harsh effects of the pandemic and, for Kathryn, life is still significantly impacted. Kathryn loved her job as a schoolteacher for special needs kindergarten students. It gave her purpose and provided stability for her and her children. When school budgets were cut as a result of COVID-19, however, all that went away when she lost her job.

As a single mom supporting her six-year-old son, Calvin, and her six- and ten-year-old nephews who are currently in her care, Kathryn scrambled to find ways to replace her income. She took anything she could get, ending up with multiple odd jobs tutoring, dog-walking, and acting as a personal assistant. With changing jobs and the instability of childcare centers during COVID-19, consistent childcare has been difficult. When asked about her life currently, Kathryn shared, “Food, shelter, and safety are my three main goals. Once those are secure, then I can prioritize things like work-life balance.”

Unfortunately, even with three different part-time jobs, Kathryn’s income didn’t cover her living expenses and she was forced to move in with her parents. The wait list for affordable housing is long and, though she’s been applying for six years, she still hopes to get in someday. “Getting into housing is like the lottery”, shared Kathryn.

When she was younger, Kathryn volunteered at a food bank in Smokey Point where she helped pick-up food from grocery stores and take it to the food bank. When she wasn’t able to qualify for food stamps due to living with her parents, she remembered her food bank experience and searched for a food bank in her area. She was relieved to find the Issaquah Food & Clothing Bank so close by, knowing that many resources are not as easily accessible and, for many people, resources are difficult to find.

Kathryn has been able to access bi-weekly shopping in the food bank, as well as Power Packs and Holiday Gift Barn for the boys. Our partnership with Eastside Baby Corner has been instrumental in helping her keep three growing boys clothed while our clothing bank has been limited to seasonal events. She still has to make difficult choices to make her income stretch each month, “We still alternate what bills to pay and when” added Kathryn. Because she is using the food bank as her main source of food, and resources typically only cover about 50–75% of a family’s food needs, she struggles to keep food on the table. “We eat a lot of canned food right now. We need the food to live”. Kathryn shared, “Although it is a tremendous help to get some food every other week, we still have to scramble and rely on the generosity of others to have enough meals.”

“I feel like things will be more manageable once we get past COVID”, added Kathryn. She hopes to get back to her job as a schoolteacher, so she does not have to rely on the food bank so often. In the interim, she’s so relieved that the donors, volunteers, and staff all do what they do to make the Issaquah Food & Clothing Bank what it is to her and so many others. “The people at the food bank are so amazing. They make it such a good experience. I appreciate seeing the same volunteers each time I visit. They are always in a good mood, friendly, and helpful. Consistency of the volunteers is important to us. It feels like I know I am being take care of.” Kathryn shared.



2021 Community Impact

FOOD BANK/ MARKET

Access to healthy food that fits each individual's dietary needs is crucial to our physical and mental health. In our market, shoppers self-select from a variety of fresh produce, dairy, meats, bread, and other staples every two weeks.

4,650 people shopped

CLOTHING BANK

Keeping seasonally appropriate clothing accessible has been our priority. We partnered with Eastside Fire & Rescue to provide pop-up clothing events in 2021.

1,085 clothing services provided

OUTREACH & CASE MANAGEMENT

By building relationships with our community members, we're able to address the needs of the whole person. We provide tangible resources, access to public assistance and other programs, as well as referrals to help each individual thrive.

300 people received case management services

250 outreach visits to unoused community members



GROCERIES TO GO

For some who are facing significant challenges with their physical health or transportation, shopping in our market is difficult at best. Every two weeks, volunteers pack and deliver grocery orders to ensure that everyone has access to healthy food.

800 people received grocery deliveries



POWER PACKS

Weekend nutrition is essential to children's health and success in school, so this program provides kid-friendly food distributed directly to students at schools each Friday.

6,600 food packs distributed to students



LUNCH FOR THE BREAK

Week-long school breaks when children don't have access to free and reduced-price lunches at school can be a stress point for many. This program provides families an extra opportunity to select healthy, kid-friendly foods their children will enjoy so that they are stocked up for times when kids are eating lunches at home.

850 food packs + \$19,400 in gift cards distributed



SUMMER LUNCH

Feeding kids at home all summer can quickly overload family food budgets and making sure that kids have access to healthy food they can prepare themselves is important. In 2021 a special distribution time was provided every other Friday during the summer to ensure kids had the nutrition they needed without additional financial hardship.

485 children served over summer break



HOLIDAY GIFT BARN

Holidays can be an especially difficult time for those experiencing financial strains. This program gives parents the resources they need so they can select just the right holiday gift for each child. In 2021, gift cards were distributed to allow families to shop as safely as possible.

1,275 children served



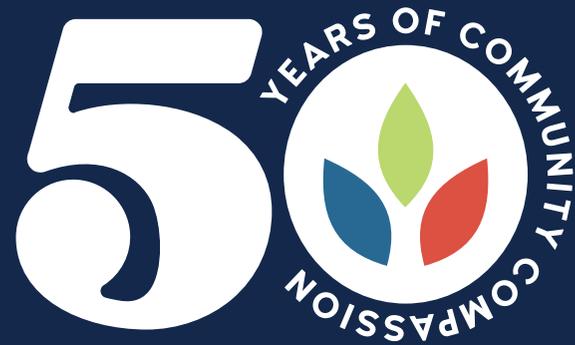
geared for success from day one

We are proud to partner with the Issaquah Schools Foundation to ensure that children have the tools they need for their academic success by helping to provide school-aged kids with new backpacks and school supplies.

1,000 backpacks distributed to students



Our amazing volunteers donated over 19,000 hours of their time and energy to collect, sort, and distribute resources.



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THE
ISSAQUAH
FOOD & CLOTHING BANK

Then and now!

1971 - 2021

Issaquah Sammamish Food Project

Hundreds of neighbors working together makes a dramatic impact on our bottom line and provides people with the food they need and want! The Issaquah Sammamish Food Project has been instrumental in giving the community an easy way to engage while significantly helping us reduce food waste and increase efficiency. Every two months, 50 neighborhood coordinators pick-up food donations from about 10 neighborhood participants and bring donation to our warehouse. Because these donors are only providing specifically requested, new items, we don't have to spend hours date checking for expired food. In addition, we can use our limited space more efficiently by quickly and easily working donations into our inventory of items that our shoppers need and want for healthy, well-rounded meals.

We've come a long way since 1971!

What started as a grassroots effort by Bob Gray and his church members at Pine Lake United Presbyterian in 1971, quickly grew to encompass other churches, the police and fire departments, and service organizations including the Kiwanis, Seniors, and Rotary. Fifty years later, we are thriving thanks to 3,000 donors and hundreds of volunteers who are committed to our mission.

In the very beginning, food was distributed out of a volunteer's garage, then out of a shipping container with mainly non-perishable foods provided. Today, we place the dignity and health of the whole person as our highest priority. We focus on providing fresh, nutritious foods including meats, dairy, and produce in a market setting. In addition, we offer free clothing, hygiene, and baby products to over 6,000 people in our 110 square mile food bank service area. For those in a wider 16-zip code radius, our case management and clothing bank services provide access to crucial resources that help people thrive.

Thank you to the millions of hands that have shown compassion to other community members through your time, your talents, and your resources. Fifty years of community compassion is what makes the Issaquah Food & Clothing Bank the vital resource that it is and we're excited to be entering into the next 50 years together.



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2021:

52,200+ lbs. of food collected

Value of \$124,000

Approx 175 hours saved

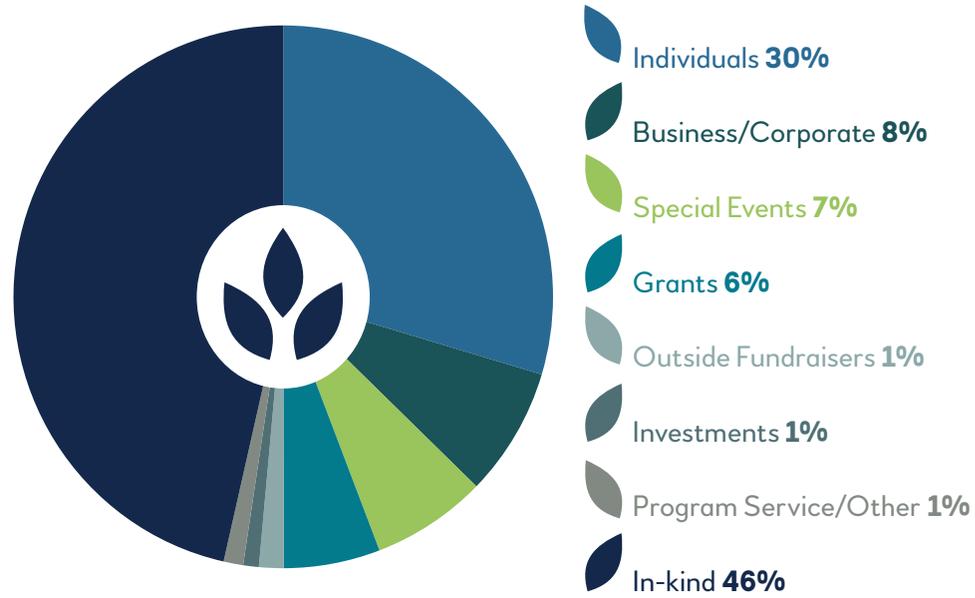
Neighborhood coordinators spend less than 10 hours/year, but provide a value of approx \$170/hour to those in our community struggling with food insecurity



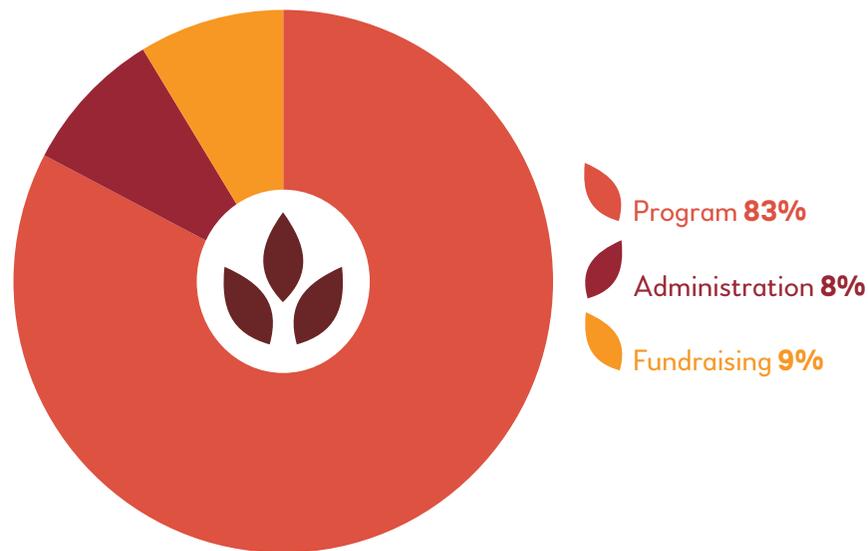
To learn more, visit issaquahsammamishfoodproject.com

2021 Financial Summary

Income
\$5,064,459



Expenses
\$4,157,104

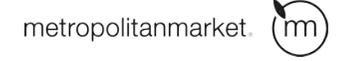
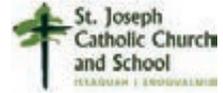
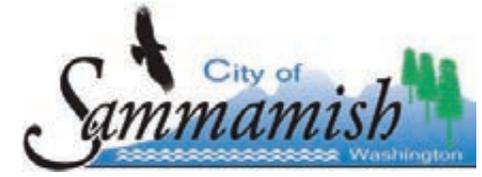


Our Funding Partners

Pioneer \$30,000 +

Visionary \$10,000+

Premier \$5,000+



Private Estate



- Christian Manley Orthodontics
- BECU
- Symetra
- Eastside Firefighters Benevolent Fund
- Orchid Mortgage
- Private Foundation
- Private Estate
- Horizons Foundation
- Snoqualmie Tribe
- Windermere Foundation
- Ford Motor Company

Top Grocery Rescue Donors

Trader Joe's · Fred Meyer
Pine Lake QFC · PCC
Newcastle QFC

1,200,000 lbs. total donated

Up 45% from 2020

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Gloria Hatcher-Mays, *Acting Vice Chair*
Chris Davis, *Acting Treasurer*
Kelly Schmidt, *Secretary*
Tricia Bush
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Bonnie DeCaro-Monahan, *Development Director*
Erin Longchari, *Interim Operations & Programs Director*
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Caelann Wood, *Outreach Coordinator*
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