

# The Bread Box



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## Food Bank's New Look: A Comfortable Neighborhood Market

The Food Bank is changing its look. We're sprucing up and making our food stations easier to identify.

If you have visited the Food Bank you know we are housed in an old warehouse circa 1940. It's a cool building with huge beams and bridge trusses supporting the roof. It is a warehouse though...a big open space.

The new look is not unlike what you might experience at a farmers' market with stations mimicking farm stands. The children's area now has Winnie

the Pooh and his friends to brighten the day and provides books for interested visitors.

A trellis sets the protein station apart and an awning with red and white strips identifies the federal commodities food distribution station. Boy Scouts, community volunteers, Altursa of Olympia, and local businesses have all had a part in the work.

Our thanks for helping to make the Food Bank feel a little more like the community we serve.



## Public Employees Aim to Collect 40,000 Pounds of Food & 10,000 Books

The Well Fed Well Read (Food and Book) drive has provided the Thurston County Food Bank and the South Sound Reading Foundation with critical support for over ten years.

This annual effort is held the first weeks of April when food donations are down and children's books are needed for upcoming summer reading programs.

It began as a state employee-focused challenge, the

brainchild of the Printing Office and the Washington State Lottery. The drive now includes cities and the county.



This year, as in years past, Governor Christine Gregoire has invited all public agencies to participate.

The goal for 2012 (the Food Bank's 40th Anniversary) is to collect 40,000 pounds of food and 10,000 children's books. Thank you public employees.



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# How the Food Bank Got Started

By Robert Coit, TCFB Executive Director, 2005 - current

I often wonder how things get started. What motivates people to put thought into action? How did the Thurston County Food Bank get started? What did the economy look like?

## It Started with Hard Economic Times...Much Like Today

**Neighbors in Need** began operations in November of 1970 in Seattle. This grass roots organization's specific goal was to temporarily fill service gaps brought about by increased need due to Boeing layoffs and the resulting high unemployment.

The situation was made more difficult by the lack of welfare agencies able to meet this sudden emergent need. Although Seattle faced the worst of unemployment, reaching 15% by 1971, the entire State was effected.



Neighbors in Need focused on providing food for the hungry and advocacy to encourage the public sector to act. The basic model relied on local neighborhood food banks for distribution and a central "food bank" or distribution center to support the neighborhood food banks.

In May of 1971 Neighbors in Need incorporated which made it easier to handle donations but it lost much of the support from the Seattle area churches.

## Statewide Coalition Starts Neighbors in Need

During the summer of 1971 a statewide coalition of helping agencies formed Neighbors in Need (NIN), patterned after the work in Seattle. This group included 69 food banks across 16 counties in the State including Thurston County.

Soon after forming, initial support from donors started to decline and NIN announced that it would close its doors early the next year. Advocacy efforts lead to a successful grant in 1972 from the Office of Economic Opportunity though concern over duplication with other charitable agencies was expressed. The Office of Economic Opportunity provided some additional funds to support NIN into 1974.

## Thurston County Community Stands on Its Own

Locally, people put best practices into place from the statewide effort. In April of 1972 Neighbors in Need of Thurston County was incorporated as an independent Washington State charity. Its initial Board of Directors was made up of representatives from local churches.

Just over a year later the organization received its 501(c)(3) tax exempt status. In October of 1978 the organization legally changed its name to the Thurston County Food Bank.

**Reference Sources:** *The Influence of an Organizational Environment on Interorganizational Relations*, by David F. Gillespie and Ronald W. Perry; *System Stress and the Persistence of Emergent Organizations*, by Ronald W. Perry, David F. Gillespie and Dennis S. Mileti



1976 - Bev Jackson became the first paid Executive Director of Neighbors in Need. Area high schools were already conducting food drives which played a big part in donations.



1977 - Jan Putnam was hired as the Food Bank Executive Director, a position she held for just over 28 years.

Celebrating



Years - 1972-2012



1972 - Food started to be distributed from the basement of the First Christian Church located at 413 N. Franklin in downtown Olympia. The Food Bank operated out of that location until 1987.

# Growing Your Gift

"How Can I Support the Food Bank?" remains one of the questions we are most frequently asked. The answer, of course, is to give whatever you can.

But there are reasons to consider giving cash.



The Food Bank is always looking for ways to leverage additional dollars. One example is through matching grants. Each May the Food Bank applies for a matching grant from the Feinstein Foundation.

## Leverage Your Gift with Feinstein Community Challenge Dollars

Your March/April donations will receive a match! This annual Community Challenge is to raise public awareness of hunger across the nation and motivate local groups to tell their stories. Sponsored and funded by the national Feinstein Foundation, during the months of March and April any donations we receive are eligible for matching funds. Although no longer a dollar for dollar match, due in large measure to its popularity, the Food Bank is still able to leverage additional funds.

## Employer Matching Gifts

Most large businesses and corporations have a matching gift program where they match your charitable donation dollar-for-dollar. For this program to work, the employee must fill out a form and send it along with their donation. Most companies have copies of the form on their company's intra-net site or in the human resources department. Once the Food Bank receives the form and donation, they complete the charity section and return it to the business. A little work goes a long way.

# Save These Important Dates

## April 7th **Produce Drive**

Bayview Thriftway, downtown Olympia  
Noon - 3pm

## April 12th **4th Annual South Sound School Summit**

NTSD Bower Learning Center, 4-7:30pm  
For registration information contact [schoolgardens@thurstoncountyfoodbank.org](mailto:schoolgardens@thurstoncountyfoodbank.org)

## April 14th **Produce Drive**

Ralph's Thriftway, East Olympia, Noon - 3pm

## April 26th **TCFB Annual Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon**

Noon-2pm  
Check-in 11:30am  
Faith Lutheran Community Center  
Door prizes, entertainment and fun guaranteed!  
[volunteers@thurstoncountyfoodbank.org](mailto:volunteers@thurstoncountyfoodbank.org)

## May 12th **Postal Workers Food Drive**

This food drive comes at a time when more families need help and just before summer break when many children lose support of the free and reduced school lunch programs. Everyone with a mailbox can participate. So get ready to go through the cupboards, pick up a few extra items at the grocery and head to your mailbox on May 12.



## May 19th **Supersort**

The now famous "Supersort" is a fun event requiring LOTS of volunteers to help sort food from food drives. It's a wonderful opportunity for newcomers to volunteer.

### **TCFB's CORE VALUES**

#### **Philosophy:**

*We believe that the hungry must be fed in an atmosphere of neighbor helping neighbor.*

#### **Mission:**

*It is the mission of the Thurston County Food Bank to eliminate hunger within our community.*

#### **Board Members**

**Gary Campbell**  
Treasurer

**Mary Fairhurst**

**Mary Henley**

**Jim Hindman**

**Anne Hirsch**  
President

**Rodger Johnson**

**Lynda Lovely-Wright**  
Secretary

**Dennis Mahar**

**Doug Mah**  
Vice President

**Bill Moore**

**Mike Oakland**

**Neil Woody**

**Sherri Wills-Green**

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**Greg Stormans**

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**Heather Sundean**  
Produce Manager

**Chris Bauermeister**  
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**Cheryl Falkenburg**  
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**Shannon Pritchard**  
Gleaning Coordinator

**Allison Eby**  
Client Services Coor.

**Karen Ray**  
School Gardens Coor.

**Judy Jones**  
Volunteer Manager

**Annalise Duerr-Miller**  
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## Where Does Our Garden Grow?

Fresh produce has become an important part of the services provided at the Food Bank. During 2011 we received and distributed 405,159 pounds of produce valued at \$484,339.

Produce donations come from a variety of donors but primarily from four sources:

1. **Grocery Rescue Program** which includes produce donations from local grocery stores
2. **Community and School Gardens**
3. **Distribution Networks** like Food Lifeline or Northwest Harvest
4. **Gleaning Program** which relies on community volunteers to harvest unwanted produce at local farms.

Last year's top donors in the **Gleaning Program** were **Helsing Junction Farm, Kirsop Farm, Parker Produce** and **Let us Farm**. In total the program gathered 32,569 pounds of fresh local produce.

The top **Community Gardens** included **St. Mark's Lutheran Church, the Department of Corrections** and the **Intel Dupont Community Garden**. The donations including all the garden donors reached 10,755 pounds.

The **Grocery Rescue Program** collected 106,126 pounds of produce from local stores and the **Distribution Networks** donated 107,017 pounds of produce.

The Food Bank would like to thank all those that supported our work with their donation of time and/or produce. It makes a difference to those we serve and has a real impact on the nutritional health of our community.



School Garden Planting at Mountain View Elementary School