ANNUAL REPORT FISCAL YEAR 2016-2017
Marysville Community Food Bank

Enhancing the lives of our neighbors by nourishing their bodies, hearts and souls to build a brighter future.
STRENGTH IN COMMUNITY SERVICE

Nearly 1,000 volunteers gave over 37,000 hours of time.

WHAT WE DO

The Marysville Community Food Bank is dedicated to providing food to families facing life’s challenges in the Marysville/Tulalip/Lakewood area. Our vision is a hunger free community. Addressing hunger in the community is our priority. By assisting families with the basic need of food, many are able to utilize freed-up resources to pay for medicine, car expenses, school essentials for their children or the cost of housing during tough times. Providing food to school children over the weekend prepares them for the school week with minds ready to learn.

A STORY

Earlier this year, while staying late at the Food Bank, I received a phone call from a woman asking about our services and hours. I informed her that we had been open for food distribution earlier that day but gave her our hours for the rest of the week. I also let her know about another food bank in town that would be open the next day. Hearing the woman’s voice crack, I asked if she had enough food to get by until the next day. She told me that she had three eggs to share with her husband. I asked if she could get to the food bank and told her I would wait for her. She arrived within 15 minutes. I retrieved a ready-to-go box of food and some milk and she selected bread and pastries from our shelves. She was extremely grateful. As we were headed toward the door she stopped and gave me a hug while fighting back tears. Then she looked at the bulletin board covered with the name tags of our volunteers. In awe and in a slow low tone she exclaimed, “Look at all those volunteers!” It was evident that she was impressed by the number of people who serve this organization and words were not necessary to feel her appreciation for the work they do to make this food bank possible.

I helped carry the woman’s groceries out to her waiting husband. He had been sitting in their car during her visit. A disabled person’s permit hung from the mirror. He opened the door and struggled to turn sideways extending his hand. During the introduction he, too, gave deep thanks for the food that we’d just placed in the backseat of their vehicle.

This is the impact that you make when you support the food bank, whether you are a volunteer or a donor. Thank you!

marysvillefoodbank.org
REFLECTIONS ON 2016

Over the last year we continued to make great progress toward meeting our goals driven by our vision of “a hunger free community.” We increased the quantity of food given to family members by increasing the number of times families can receive groceries from the Food Bank. Not only does the food we give fill empty stomachs, but it also frees up family resources to be used for other basic needs.

We increased access to the Food Bank by partnering with Marysville United Methodist Church providing a shuttle service to clients who had no means of transporting their groceries home. Now folks who were unable to get food home can utilize our service.

As the result of these changes, the number of families served has increased by a staggering 20%.

To help us address the increase in demand, we recently kicked off a new donation program called A Simple Gesture (or the “COOL GREEN BAG”) which gives local families an easy and fun way to help their fellow neighbors by donating food to the Food Bank every other month. The first donation pick-up was July 2nd and we collected over 4,000 pounds of food!

The Food for Thought food backpack program served over 400 students per week. Now all schools in the district are served by this program. Middle and high school students in need of help can access food through “in-school” food closets.

In May we held a fundraiser at the Marysville Opera House that was supported by donations from dozens of local businesses and individuals. The event brought in over $16,000 to support our services. Thank you to all who contributed!

THE FUTURE

As we look toward 2018 we will be focusing on many areas. Currently, we are participating in a board development program. From this we hope to apply best practices to the way we operate our board and its interaction with staff.

We will continue to work on our goals of reducing client wait time, increasing access to our services, and increasing the quality of food. And, we will continue to develop and grow our Simple Gesture program to increase food donations as we work to keep up with demand.
Children’s Toy Store

1,200 children received holiday gifts. The Grove Church once again offered an inviting venue for the Toy Store.

HIGHLIGHTS

- 16,032 families served
- 13,649 food backpacks provided to students
- 1,310 holiday baskets
- 1,200 children received holiday gifts
- 1,047,428 pounds of food given out

Clients can visit the Food Bank three times each month for full service, and once a month for bread, pastries, and fresh produce. Holiday food baskets are offered to families in need every Thanksgiving and Christmas.

FOOD DISTRIBUTION HOURS

Mondays: 9:00-11:00 AM
   Seniors 62 & over and disabled clients ONLY
Tuesdays: 3:00-6:00 PM
   Plus 3:00-6:30 PM the last Tuesday of the month
Fridays: 9:00-11:00 AM

DONATION, BUSINESS & VOLUNTEER HOURS

Mondays: 7:30 AM – Noon
Tuesdays: 7:30 AM – Noon and 2:00-6:30 PM
Thursdays: 7:30 AM – Noon
Fridays: 7:30 AM – Noon
Saturdays: 7:30 – 11:00 AM

What goes into a backpack?

15 - 20 volunteers assemble and distribute Food For Thought “Backpacks” weekly during the school year.

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