

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Happy New Year!

As I sit at my desk and write this letter the sun is breaking through the clouds for the first time in days! It is so nice to see the days getting longer and our thoughts turning to spring and walking on dry ground! As beautiful as the white mountains and snow are, the smell of spring and sunny days is wonderful! As I reflect on 2021, we faced continued challenges in our public health and economic situation on the Kenai Peninsula, but with the support of this amazing community, we persevered. I am very humbled, yet proud, that the Kenai Peninsula Food Bank did not miss one day of service the entire year, as we were able to do in 2020. We also understand that we are nothing without the support of our community and we are everything when we pull together. Thank you.



Date night for Greg & Diane

As we continue to navigate the pandemic, supply chain issues, limited food donations, and increased access to services at the food bank, we do it in harmony with our community and fellow nonprofit organizations. We have shown that we are a strong and resilient community when we work together. The opening of the Nikiski Shelter of Hope is our newest community partner to provide needed services to our neighbors. Every day we work hard to keep people fed on the Kenai, seeing the smiles and hope that better days are ahead. Please know that your support is invaluable to our mission and that every day we are grateful. The food bank staff, board and volunteers never take this wonderful community for granted. Your support, encouragement and partnership in caring for our neighbors is an amazing gift that makes living on the Kenai Peninsula the best place in the world.



Greg hanging out with GRIZZ.



COMING SOON

- Spring EventJune
- Food Bank in The ParkJuly
- Soup Supper.....August
- Hunger Action Month.....September
- It's Scary to be Hungry.....October
- Raffle TicketsSOON



IT'S SCARY TO BE HUNGRY!

Five Star Realty hosted a HAUNTED HOUSE FOOD DRIVE that was very well attended.

The Food Bank hosted the 1st Annual It's Scary to be Hungry drive-through trick or treat/food drive. Staff handed out hot dogs, chips and treats and you donated over 200 pounds of food and \$100.00. THANK YOU!

Drive through Trick or Treat and Food Drive



YOUR GIFT TO OUR NEIGHBORS CAN'T BE MEASURED

By hosting and supporting food drives and fundraisers you contributed over \$18,400.00 and over 30,000 pounds of food for the holidays! Bringing the total of food donations in 2021 to 83,695 pounds!

Check out the Food Drive tab on our website at kpfoodbank.org to holiday contributors.

Thanks to hosts: Alaska USA, Ammo Can Coffee, Bear Naked Tans, Denali NuVision, Edward Jones/Jocelyn O'Connor, Employees of the Flight Service Station, Five Star Realty, Forever Dance Group, Connie Goltz art show, Kaleidoscope Charter School, Kenai Spine, Hilcorp Alaska, Hutchings Auto Group, IDEA Home School, Kaleidoscope Charter School, Kairos Prison Ministry International, Kelly Griebel Century 21, Kenai Central High School, Kenai Middle School, Kenai Peninsula Association of Realtors, Little People's Learning Center, Marathon Oil Employees, Mt. View Elementary School, Muscles in Motion, Nail Boutique, North Peninsula Recreation Center, Redoubt Elementary, Redoubt Realty, River City Books, Rotary Clubs of Kenai and Soldotna, Stewart Title of the Kenai

Peninsula, WAHEED COURT #81—TUGI II and Yoga Yurt.

Thanks to donors. You have a huge impact on the success of these fundraisers and by supporting these hosts, you are also supporting your community.



Marathon donated 20,000lbs of turkeys!
And Marathon Employees Annual Food Drive collected 1,050lbs of food!



Rebecca Fielden, Warren Caughy, Lochlan Quiner and James Kinslow (somehow not pictured) of Alaska USA Federal Credit Union present Greg, and Food Bank staff with funds raised during their annual CASH FOR CANS Fundraiser. Thanks Alaska USA and contributors!



These Lady Shriners make a quilt every year to auction and give the proceeds to nonprofit agencies.



Forever Dance Group Delivering Annual Food Drive Donation



Linda Hutchings, Hutchings Auto Group and Peggy Mullen, River City Books collaborated to provide books to children and set up a book buck matching jar



Matt Scaggs of Denali NuVision rCredit Union presenting Greg with a check and Janet Johnson handing over collected food.



Stockings donated by Rotary



THANK YOU HOCKEY FANS & THANK YOU HILCORP!



Peter Iverson, Matt Helgeson and Jim Shine handing out Hilcorp swag



Lori Nelson making sure everyone gets tickets for prizes.



Matt Helgeson giving us some perspective on the size of the food pile.

Volunteer Highlight



Sharon & Greg looking forward to distributing produce boxes.

Sharon Isaak. Many people who know Sharon describe her as generous, thoughtful, and a woman of strong faith. In the fall of 2020 when the Kenai

Peninsula Food Bank was receiving tons of donated food, we turned to Sharon to help with the distribution of this food because we knew she is reliable, dedicated, and masterful at connecting people with resources. Greg Meyer would give her the heads-up when there was food to distribute. She and her husband Dave would show up early Sunday morning with their long-bed pickup truck. They'd put the bread and fruit in the club cab and 50 Farmers to Families food boxes in the bed of the truck. They distributed this food at their church, the

Soldotna Bible Chapel.

"It was a multigenerational effort", Sharon said. "The kids were excellent helpers!"

"This food had no strings attached and was going to people who had lost their jobs or hit hard times". She added, "People at church knew other people who were in need of food. They received so much joy in helping others".

She said, "I love people and I love to serve"! "This food distribution is something I will never forget".



Tom, Sharon's husband helps unload produce boxes.

Sharon, the food bank will never forget the heart, hope, passion and love you put into each box and bunch of bananas you distributed!

Spring is just around the corner!

Free Vendor Space Available!

Would you be interested in selling farm fresh products at the Kenai Peninsula Food Bank/ Tote Maritime Farmers Fresh Market?

Tuesdays from 2 PM to 6 PM beginning June 15 through the end of the growing season.

Kenai Peninsula Food Bank Parking Lot for more information contact randie@kpfoodbank.org or visit our website at kpfoodbank.org



Tuesdays 3–6 PM
COMMUNITY COLLEGE DRIVE
FOOD BANK PARKING LOT

Sponsorships Available!

Join Central Peninsula Hospital in supporting the Food Bank through sponsorships of our annual fundraisers.

The 26th Annual Soup Supper is scheduled to take place at the Soldotna Sports Center (fingers crossed) on August 20, 2022. Several sponsorship levels are available and you can contact Greg or Randi for additional information.

The 2nd Annual Food Bank at the Park to be held during Soldotna Progress Days weekend, with vendors, food trucks, entertainment and, in the evening a



beer garden. This high-profile event drew a huge crowd and sponsorships include name on all printed material, social media, newspaper, radio and at the event.

The 2nd Annual IT'S SCARY TO BE HUNGRY drive through trick-or-treat, with food donations encouraged.

\$1,000.00 sponsorship includes your name on all printed material, social media, newspaper, radio and at the event.



I cannot do all the good that the world needs. But the world needs all the good that I can do.

– Jana Stanfield

Rainbow Van moving to Homer

The colorful Food Bank Van, affectionately dubbed the “Rainbow Van” is heading for lighter duty at the Homer Food Pantry.



A grant through the Alaska Community Foundation made it possible to purchase a vehicle to better accommodate the increased food transport needs of our community.

The new truck has 4-wheel drive and will be able to haul food to the

new homeless shelter, even when the roads are challenging. It can also be used for hauling wood to keep the wood pile stocked, hauling garden supplies and moving tables, chairs and event items.

Nikiski Shelter of Hope

After years of hard work and determination of several community members and organizations, we have a cold weather shelter.

The 22 bed shelter is temporary housing for those in need of refuge from the weather.

It is a safe, warm, dry place offering a clean bed, a place to shower, do laundry and provides resources and support to our homeless neighbors. Several organizations take turns overseeing the facility and being available for residents.

There is a small kitchen for heating things up, but it is not a commercial, DEC approved kitchen for cooking.

So the Food Bank, churches and other organizations have pulled together to prepare and deliver meals to the shelter.

SUPPORTERS

Alaska Community
Foundation

Alaska Waste

KDLL

Kenai Community
Foundation

Kenai Joes Taphouse

Feeding America

Food Bank of Alaska

Kenai Potter's Guild

Lyndon Transport

Rasmuson Foundation

In 2021 Alaskans gave \$3,033,050.00 to causes they care about through PickClickGive!

Please consider giving to the organization(s) that you feel compelled to support. Pick Click Give approved organizations all strive to make our communities better places to live for all of us.

All donations are tax deductible and donors will receive tax documentation from the State once your donations have been processed. Permanent Fund Dividend applications are available from January 1 to March 31, though Alaskans may choose to add or adjust their pledges online through August 31.

File for your PFD or add a pledge at pfd.alaska.gov

The program is run by The Alaska Community Foundation in partnership with the Rasmuson Foundation, The Foraker Group, and the State of Alaska Permanent Fund Dividend Division.



KENAI PENINSULA FoodBank

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Soldotna, AK 99669
262-3111 / 741-2166

HAVE YOU CONSIDERED?

Email communication helps to reduce postage costs, and be fiscally and environmentally responsible, we try to communicate with donors through email as much as possible. If you aren't receiving emails from us and would like to, please contact randi@kpfoodbank.org.

If you are receiving email communications from us and would prefer regular mail, no problem. Just contact me at the above email.

AND THE WINNER IS

(insert your name here)

Watch for our 2022 raffles coming soon. It's a great way to support the Food Bank and you might just get lucky!

