



## *Community*

Distributing USDA Farm to Families produce boxes took a community of hard working people dedicated to getting food to those who can use it.

A Very Special Thanks to:

- Anchor Point Food Pantry
- Anchor Point Senior Center
- Christ Lutheran Church
- Heritage Place
- Homer Food Pantry
- Hope School
- Hospice of the Central Peninsula
- Kenai Food Pantry
- Kenai Senior Center
- Ninilchik Senior Center
- North Star United Methodist Food Pantry in Nikiski
- Set Free
- Soldotna Bible Chapel
- Soldotna Food Pantry
- Soldotna Senior Center
- Sterling Senior Center
- Trinity Worship Center
- City of Whittier
- AND KENAI PENINSULA FOOD BANK VOLUNTEERS

**We couldn't do it without you!**

**F**rom May until mid-September, the Kenai Peninsula Food Bank has been picking up USDA Farm to Families produce boxes for distribution on the Kenai Peninsula. Our community really stepped up to help us ensure that fresh produce and milk was available to all our neighbors. Through a network of food pantries, organizations, and helpers we distributed 227,782 pounds of fresh produce and 122,472 pounds of fresh milk! We could not have done this without your generous contributions, and the taxpayer supported USDA Farm to Families program, all of which enabled the food bank to pick up, deliver and distribute the fresh food.

THANK YOU!



Sample of Produce Box



Delivering to Nikolaevsk



Anchor Point



There was quite a line of cars in Nikiski



Distributing produce to our neighbors through Hope School



## *A Community of 58,555 Neighbors*

*FROM THE DIRECTOR:*

Growing up in the 60's I often heard stories from my grandparents and parents about surviving the Great Depression. My Grandma Jorgensen lived her entire life with the results of contracting polio as a child. My mom was a Registered Dietician who has

spoken of working during epidemics through her long career in the hospital. I do not know if it is the Scandinavian work ethic or lots of coffee, but she has survived all these challenges and is a very healthy and active 90-year-old. Stories of Strength, heroics and determination have helped

me to persevere during these challenging times. I believe that the year 2020 will be discussed for a long time as the history books record the pandemic and how it changed our world.

One thing has not changed, that is the mission of the Food Bank. Since March 18, 2020, the Food Bank has served growing numbers of neighbors through a variety of emergency programs as well as keeping all our regular programs available. This has involved serving our Fireweed Diner meals in a "to go" style, providing the TEFAP, CSFP and perishable foods in a prepackaged manner to expedite the food distribution process and keep everyone safe. It has involved partnering with the USDA Farmers to Families program that enabled us to provide fresh produce distributions across the Peninsula. One of our silver linings during the pandemic has been getting to know our **community** partners and see the amazing work they are doing. Strengthening partnerships is what makes our work valuable and provides a more powerful impact.

Along with the food distribution, the Food Bank

has made considerable changes in the facility to ensure the safety of our staff, volunteers and neighbors. The offices were moved into the distribution area and the distribution area was moved into the warehouse. Washable flooring was installed, kitchen renovations new seating in the Fireweed Diner, and technological improvements have all been accomplished to ensure we can meet the need in the days, weeks and years ahead.

Fulfilling our mission of feeding our neighbors cannot happen without the incredible and generous support of our amazing community. Thank you for walking with us and providing the resources required to serve our neighbors. We cannot do our work without you. As we look to what could be a very difficult winter for our community, we once again turn to our community for support. Thank you for considering a year-end gift that will keep our neighbors fed and cared for. I am so grateful for your partnership in our mission and I am very proud to say that I live on the beautiful and caring Kenai Peninsula.



Serving take-out lunches from the diner



Building meal bags for distribution in Kenai & Soldotna





## Community Cares

Thanks to Peninsula Rotary clubs for , once again, “putting service above self” and collecting 754 lbs. of peanut butter



These future Rotarians and peanut butter experts volunteered for quality control.

We appreciate that the cities of **Kenai and Soldotna** have formed a partnership to distribute Cares Act funds in the form of food bags. This is a very targeted effort to address the immediate emergency need that the public health crisis has produced and will be **available until December 30, 2020.**

Many thanks to **Conoco and Hilcorp** for providing thousands of the bags and others who have been willing to contribute what they have.

Volunteers and staff have been assembling and distributing 650 bags a week. Each bag contains 15lbs of food, a weeks supply of food for 2 people. These bags contain a variety of shelf stable items such as cereal, peanut butter, jelly, fruit cups, and juice, with the Food Bank adding bread, and any fresh or perishable items that are available at the time. Watch our Facebook page for distribution times and locations.



**World Polio Day** was established by Rotary International to commemorate the birth of Jonas Salk, who led the first team to develop a vaccine against poliomyelitis. A polio-free world is possible, but we can achieve it only by taking action together. **Join with @Rotary this #WorldPolioDay to @EndPolioNow: endpol.io/wpd**



**Polio Today:** When Rotary and its partners formed the GPEI in 1988, there were 350,000 cases of polio in 125 countries every year. Today, they have reduced polio cases by 99.9 percent, and just two countries continue to report cases of wild poliovirus: Afghanistan and Pakistan. Because of the efforts of Rotary and its partners, nearly 19 million people who would otherwise have been paralyzed are walking, and more than 1.5 million people are alive who would otherwise have died. The infrastructure they helped build to end polio is also being used to treat and prevent other diseases (including COVID-19) and create lasting impact in other areas of public health.



**Hilcorp**

### HILCORP AND 4-H TEAM UP TO FEED HUNGRY NEIGHBORS.

“Industry Appreciation Day is held in late summer each year to celebrate the diverse industries that make up the Kenai Peninsula Borough’s economy. This event is free to the public due to the generous businesses that sponsor each year. There are no vendor fees and no booths may charge attendees for anything.” KP&DD. Sadly, this fun community event was canceled, like so many others, due to the current health crisis. Hilcorp was planning on buying a pig for the BBQ and to support Kenai Peninsula District 4-H.

The Food Bank became the lucky recipient of an 150 pound pig from **Hilcorp** and the **Kenai Peninsula District 4-H** donated the processing and packaging. What a wonderful treat for our hungry neighbors!

On Fridays we have been distributing additional snack bags to help our neighbors make it through the weekend. Thanks to

**Peninsula Community Health Services** for donating lunch bag sized, reusable cloth bags, that we are filling with items such as Cup-O-Noodles, Ramen, granola bars, fruit, crackers or chips and a variety of simple nourishing snacks.



## Community Supports

**Wow!** Look what you did! The 24th Annual Soup Supper, turned Cyber Soup Supper was a successful event making almost half as much as our last live event. You really answered the call to action; purchasing raffle tickets for the Polaris Side x Side and Alaska Airlines and purchasing "Supper" tickets. It was fun everyone stop by the Farmers Fresh Market and pick out their beautiful, hand-crafted bowls from the **Kenai Potters Guild** and enter the drawings for baskets created by Karen Fogarty & Lori Seymour, thank you ladies.

### MARK YOUR CALENDAR

We are ready to eat soup and visit with our neighbors. We already have the Soldotna Sports Arena booked and are making plans for The Kenai Peninsula Food Bank's Silver Soup Supper on August 21, 2021.



Amy Carpenter



Courtney Katz



Bret Demetrius



Lisa Parker



Tanya Erwin

Grand Prize Winner

Thanks to Alaska Railroad for providing Round Trip tickets for 2 to Fairbanks and the Moose's Tooth for Dinner for 2 and Greg Meyer for the 1 year family pass to the Alaska Sealife Center to make up the Cyber Soup Supper Grand Prize.



We wonder if Shana Butler ever going to take the wheel of her new Polaris XP900 Side X Side.

Thanks for buying raffle tickets and supporting the Kenai Peninsula Food Bank.



Thanks to Alaska Airlines for providing Round Trip Tickets for 2 anywhere they fly. And congratulations to the luck winner Catherine Perry!



### BASKET WINNERS

Not everyone wanted to get their picture taken, but we caught who we could. The winners of the 24th Annual Soup Supper gone Cyber were: Patty See, Laura Eisinger, Lisa Parker, Bret Demetrius, Amy Carpenter, Allison Gottesman, Courtney Katz with the Grand Prize Basket going to Tanya Erwin.

Thanks to everyone who purchased Cyber Soup Supper Tickets.

## OUR SOUPER HEROES!



### SOUPER SUPPORTERS

- Alaska Airlines
- Alaska Railroad
- Kenai Art Guild
- Kenai River Drifters Lodge
- Moose's Tooth
- Northcountry Fair
- Trustworthy Hardware



## Community Helps



**THANK YOU ARBY'S** for directing funds to the Kenai Peninsula Food Bank through the Arby's Foundation 2020 **MAKE A DIFFERENCE CAMPAIGN.** The Arby's Foundation supports children and youth through several programs. "We provide the food necessary for kids to fuel their dreams. We do this through investments in local and national hunger relief partners like No Kid Hungry and through our nationally recognized School's Out, Food's In summer meal card program." The foundation also supports youth leadership and career readiness. To learn more about the Arby's Foundation, visit [foundation.arbys.com](http://foundation.arbys.com).



Bobbi and Jeri took time away from **The Fine Thyme Cafe** to prepare and deliver a roasted chicken dinner with all the trimmings to Anchor Point.

Bobbi has worked endlessly to support the food bank and our hungry neighbors since the very beginning of the health crisis. Before there were any checks for small businesses, Bobbi was making delicious chilis and soups for the food bank to distribute.

You can find their delightful menu and specials on Facebook.



### SOCKEYE BLESSING TO OUR SENIOR NEIGHBORS

Thanks to Nate Burgess, and **Pacific Star Seafoods** for your on-going support of the Food Bank and our neighbors throughout the Kenai Peninsula.

The donation of 4,800 pounds of sockeye was a real treat to area seniors and others who are unable to fish. Many expressed great gratitude, saying that they didn't receive as many fish as they usually do from their proxies. Thanks again Nate!



**FOOD BANK of ALASKA**

### FOOD BANK OF ALASKA 2ND ANNUAL ALASKA GROWN PRODUCE PROGRAM helps farmers and food banks in our state.

The Kenai Peninsula Food Bank appreciates the partnership with Ridgeway Farms, Anchor Point Greenhouse and the Food Bank of Alaska in providing fresh, local produce for us to distribute to our neighbors throughout the Kenai Peninsula, not only through the Fireweed Diner, but through a network of food pantries and partners.

The Food Bank of Alaska directed funds from COVID response grants to facilitate their 2nd Annual Alaska Grown Produce Program. These grants were made possible through Feeding America and the Murdock Trust.

Food Bank of Alaska provides support to all of the food banks in Alaska with education and resources. We are a team supporting the elimination of hunger in Alaska. Visit [foodbankofalaska.org](http://foodbankofalaska.org) for more information.

### KENAI POTTER'S GUILD

Words can't express the gratitude we have for the potters at the **Kenai Potter's Guild**. These **Food Bank Supporters** have diligently created beautiful bowls for this major fundraiser since it began 24 years ago. Additionally, many of these generous artists paid for the clay and firing themselves!

Thank you for being one of the reasons **The Kenai Peninsula Food Bank Soup Supper** is a success, as each year our neighbors look forward to picking out their special hand-crafted bowl.



Greg at Ridgeway Farms with the film crew from Murdock Trust conducting an interview highlighting the many causes they support in the Pacific Northwest. To learn more about Murdock Trust visit [murdocktrust.org](http://murdocktrust.org).

## FOOD FOR THOUGHT

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We're on the Web!

[kpfoodbank.org](http://kpfoodbank.org)

### THANKS FOR PROVIDING YOUR EMAIL

Thanks to all the donors who have provided their email addresses and helped us save thousands of dollars on postage and office supplies.

**U-HAUL**

*Moving Made Easier*

We appreciate the \$1,000.00 of steel racks donated by U-HAUL. Thanks

for helping us stay organized while we are continually moving around product to rotate and maximize our very limited warehouse space.

# KENAI PENINSULA Food Bank



The Kenai Peninsula Food Bank/Tote Farmers Fresh Market and the Kenai Local Food Connection kept busy this summer with the Double Up program.



### THANK YOU MONTHLY DONORS

Many donors contribute monthly with automatic payments from a credit card or giving program at their work. Just \$50 dollars a month adds up to \$600.00 a year! In just 5 years you will have contributed \$3,000.00!

## Community Gives

*We are so very fortunate to live in a community of such caring and compassionate people and luckily, during this health crisis there has been CARES Act money and COVID relief funds to help with the immediate and urgent needs of our neighbors. Unfortunately, they have indicated that the money will end December 30 and we fear the need will only increase.*

*As 2020 comes to an end and winter descends upon us, please remember that many of our neighbors are struggling to keep a roof over their heads and provide for their families. The cost of living increases substantially as it gets colder and the days grow shorter.*

*We have neighbors who have been laid off or had hours reduced, neighbors who live on a fixed income and neighbors who are unable to leave their homes and need food delivered.*

*As the Kenai Peninsula Food Bank continues to strive to provide food and resources to all of our neighbors in need, we cannot do it without a community of concerned individuals.*

*Please consider a year-end gift to help us continue to serve our neighbors in our 24,752 square mile community.*

*Thanks again for partnering with us in our mission to feed people, our goal to end hunger on the Kenai Peninsula and our efforts to reduce food waste.*

Randi Smith, Donor Relations

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