

Classes for Healthy Food Choices

In April the Fireweed Diner expanded to Wednesday evening meals with Food for Thought classes that covered topics like; Power Up With Breakfast, Eat Better on a Budget, Diabetes and Food, and Preserving Your Harvest. Guest speakers made these classes informative and entertaining while community partners helped with the cooking and serving. These classes have been very well received.

Starting June 11, we will have classes on Tuesdays to coincide with the Farmers Market with hopes of some of the vendors sharing their food knowledge, growing, cooking, and preserving tips.

The local University of Fairbanks Cooperative Extension Service has been involved in helping the Food Bank with classes and ideas for healthy food choices and preparation. **There will be a section in the warehouse for consumers with food restrictions that will be sorted and labeled for gluten free, sugar free, low sodium, etc.**



MEAL-A-MONTH SPONSORSHIP

The Fireweed Diner is open Monday - Friday from 11:30am - 2:30pm and provides meals at no cost to it's guests. For some, this is the only hot meal they eat each day. Meals are prepared from the donations of local businesses, individuals, and Meal-a-Month sponsors.

Meal-a-Month is a recurring monthly donation that provides food directly to your neighbors who struggle with food insecurity.

\$100 monthly donation provides 46 meals a month and 550 meals a year.

To become a Meal-a-Month Sponsor, please fill out this form and return to the Food Bank.

33955 Community College Drive,
Soldotna, AK 99669

Name: _____

Business: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

CC#: _____

Exp Date _____ CSV _____

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Our Mission

"We feed people because no one deserves to be hungry!"

The Kenai Peninsula Food Bank's mission is to provide nourishing food to those in need and to promote public awareness of hunger issues. We are dedicated to addressing hunger on the Kenai Peninsula by distributing food to the hungry directly or through associated nonprofit agencies.

Connect With Us

@KPFoodBank  

Contact Us

Kenai Peninsula Food Bank
33955 Community College Drive
Soldotna, Alaska 99669
907-262-3111
kpfoodbank@gmail.com
or randi@kpfoodbank.org



From Our Director

It is my pleasure to write for my first newsletter as the director of the Kenai Peninsula Food Bank. My wife and I are so overwhelmed with the welcoming and generosity of this wonderful community. We are enjoying our life as Alaskans. I also feel very blessed by the opportunity to work for a wonderful

organization with a fantastic team of dedicated staff and volunteers.

Each day I see the good work of providing food to our neighbors.

An incredible partnership between the local businesses, community, staff, and volunteers. **It is your support that enables us to serve our community.** Without you we cannot work to end hunger on the Peninsula. I recently had an experience that profoundly deepened my commitment to living out the Food Bank Mission – *"We Feed People, Because No One Deserves to be Hungry."*

I was working late one evening this past month and as I left the building about 10pm, I saw a person eating from the bin where food for the farm animals is left outside for farmers to pick up. This is produce that has spoiled and is often moldy. After visiting with this person and hearing their need, I opened the building and was able to supply food for dinner as well as the next day. I didn't share this story as a pat on the back, but to call attention to the reality of food insecurity that many of our neighbors face on a daily basis. An uncertainty that NO ONE should ever have to live with. **It was your gifts that provided food that evening.**

You are invited to stop by and have lunch in the Fireweed Diner and take a tour of the facility. We are dedicated to our mission and work hard to serve our community effectively and efficiently. Thank you for supporting the Kenai Peninsula Food Bank.

Greg Meyer

Greg Meyer
Executive Director

Meet the Staff



From left to right: Morganette, Linda, Calvin, Lin, Randi, John, Brenda, Greg, George, Nels, Francis, Don, Kyle, Kimie, Alex, Evelyn

Food Drives Drive Away Hunger

We live in an amazing community that is so willing to step up and support the mission of feeding people.

Thanks to First National Bank Alaska for the "Barrels in every Branch" food drive which raised 91 pounds of food and \$1,021.86 in monetary donations from customers. Dairy Queen customers contributed 80 pounds – Kaladi Brothers raised 85 pounds of food – Tsalteshi Trail Association had a Frozen Food drive contributing over 34 pounds of food – Auto Zone gave 34 pounds – Midas 90 pounds – the Soldotna Library contributed 848 pounds of food with their Food For Fines drive – 907 Diesel had drawings for participants and donated 94 pounds of food – The Nail Boutique also combined their food drive with prizes and gave one day's proceeds for a total of 206 pounds and \$1,615.00!



Kids joined in too! Soldotna Bible Chapel Awana Club raised 163 pounds (and had a friendly competition between the boys and girls) – the Soldotna High School was able to raise 75 pounds of food – Skyview Middle School answered a plea for birthday bags and managed to put together over 400! And there's more! The IDEA student council had a contest collecting food. The teacher who got the most received a pie in the face at the end of year picnic. **Our neighbors are always coming up with creative ways to collect food. WE LOVE IT!**

The Kenai Peninsula Food Bank Spring Festival and Fundraiser Was a Huge Success

Thanks to Credit Union 1, BP, Central Peninsula Hospital, Apollo Restaurant, Fraternal Order of Eagles Aerie #3525, Whiteley Educational Consultants, Alaska Best Water, Little Creek Water Co., Kenai River Brewery, Alaska Berries Winery, CBC Party Rentals, Peninsula Pumping, Bassline Sound, Mike Morgan, Ryan Hiller, The Pepper Shakers, KDLL, Fred Meyer, Everything Bagels, Arbys, Save-U-More, Home Depot, Walmart and the many volunteers and everyone who donated items for the bucket auction.

Spring Has Sprung and Summer is Here

Volunteers are getting the Hoop House Garden ready and will be planting sugar snap peas, lettuce, spinach, and other items to help supply the Fireweed Diner with fresh produce. The Kenai Peninsula Food Bank Farmers Market (formerly the Farmers Fresh Market) will kick-off on June 11 and will be open from 3pm - 6pm on Tuesdays. The market hosts up to 10 farmers with a variety of produce and freshly made products. **Contact the Food Bank if you would like to be a vendor at 907-262-3111.**



Take Action Against Hunger in September!

September is Hunger Action Month! As part of Hunger Action month, we're asking you to take simple actions to fight hunger across the Kenai Peninsula. Participation is simple.

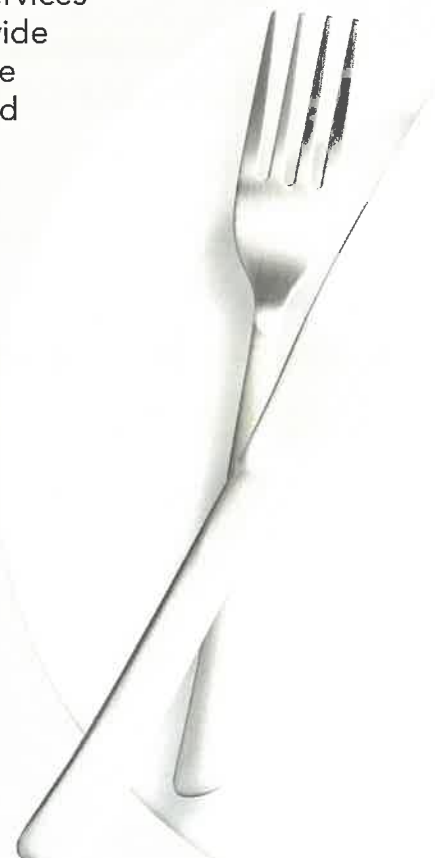
- Attend one of our Hunger Action Month events
- Organize your own bake sale, penny drive or other fundraising event.
- Volunteer with the food bank.
- Turn your Facebook or Twitter profile orange.
- Make a financial contribution to support hunger-relief work.
- Become a Meal-A-Month sponsor by making a recurring monthly contribution.

The Kenai Peninsula Food Bank, businesses, and supporters will be raising awareness, food, and funds all month long. Today, 1 in 10 people in our communities across the peninsula struggle with hunger. **Will you take action and join our fight?**

Each year donors provide meals to more than 20,000 people through over 70 partner agencies, 14 staff, 100's of volunteers, and sponsors.

This community support means that Direct Food Services will be able to provide meals to an average of 800 unduplicated families each month. The food bank also provided an average of 271 meals to senior citizens and 66 to veterans each month.

Thank you for your support in our mission to feed those who are hungry in our communities!



Save The Date

The 23rd Annual Soup Supper will be held on **August 24th at the Soldotna Sports Complex**. This is the Food Bank's major annual fundraiser, with donors, sponsors, and community members coming together to support the goal of eliminating hunger on the Kenai Peninsula. Tickets are \$50.00 and there will be a live auction, a silent auction, and a raffle for Alaska Airline tickets and the drawing for the side by side ATV raffle.



Attendees get to pick out a beautiful handmade bowl from the local Potter's Guild and other community members.

Thanks to BP, Central Peninsula Hospital, Conoco Phillips, Wells Fargo, Arby's, All American Oilfield, BlueCrest Energy, GLM, Marathon, Lynden, Salamatof Native Assoc., State Farm-Nancy Field, and others for their sponsorships this is sure to be another successful event.

Get Your Tickets Now

It only takes \$50 and you could win this 2019 Polaris Ranger XP 900.

The lucky winner will be drawn at the Annual Soup Supper on August 24th. You don't need to be present to win, but wouldn't it be fun to accept your prize in front of a cheering crowd?

