



ON THE ROAD AGAIN!

Well, actually, thanks to Food Bank of Alaska for the loaner, we were only off the road for a short time.



Thanks to Dave Hutchings of Hutchings Auto Group, for shopping around and finding the new (gently used) Food Bank truck. Thanks to Marathon Petroleum, with the help of the Alaska Foundation, the Homer Community Foundation, the Kenai Community Foundation, the Carrs Foundation and several individual donors for making it possible.

Thanks to TOTE for providing the shipping here and to the Food Bank of Alaska for filling it with, much needed food and stocking the pantry shelves.

GARDEN GROWING STRONG

The Food Bank Gardens have been getting quite a “sprucing up” thanks to the support of Seed Money, a Maine based, non-profit that offered to match local contributions; James & Lydia Craycraft, Chris Hayes, and the Kenai Peninsula Garden Club.

Hardworking volunteers have replaced the netting, cleaned up all the beds, refurbished the little greenhouse and planted seeds and starts.

A big thank you to Alaska Farm Fresh, Arnold Family Farm, Jeff Babbit, Janice Chumley, Chris Hayes, Ridgeway Farms, Vanderweele Farms, and many individuals for contributing plant starts. We’re excitedly anticipating some delicious fresh food to share with our neighbors. We just harvested and distributed 25 lbs of lettuce!

For more information on locally grown food, download the Kenai Peninsula Local Food Directory at www.KenaiLocalFood.org



LUNCH BOX HEROS

As we have been “hunkering down” we have been distributing meals take out style” to our neighbors in need. This took many modifications, rearranging, expenses, but thanks to the many restaurants, businesses, organizations, volunteers and individuals lunch service was uninterrupted. Supporters include :

- | | | |
|---------------------|---------------------------|----------------|
| 3 BEARS | FRED MEYER | LIFEMED ALASKA |
| AUTO ZONE | FRESH 365 | PAPA MURPHYS |
| CADRE FEED | INDEPENDENT LIVING CENTER | SAFEWAY |
| COUNTRY FOODS IGA | JERSY SUBS | SAVE-U-MORE |
| CREDIT UNION 1 | KENAI BOYS & GIRLS CLUB | WALGREENS |
| DINNER’S READY | | WALMART |
| FINE THYME | KENAI RIVER BREWERY | |
| FOOD BANK OF ALASKA | KENAI RIVER ROTARY | |



So many have helped in so many ways, if anyone has been left out, it is not lack of gratitude but the logistics of working remotely, network connections and reorganizing. Thank you for sharing your time, energy and resources to support your neighbors during these uncertain times.

The 24th Annual Soup Supper may be Going Cyber

Same Tradition- Same Call to Action--Different Look

The Souper Cyber Supper? This empty bowl event will be coming in August. Local potters are busily making those beautiful bowls, because it wouldn't be the Soup Supper without them. This is a new adventure so the details are still being formed.

There will be a variety of ways to show your support, add to your bowl collection and be entered in a drawing (details TBA).

For the safety and well-being of you, our neighbors and supporters, the Board of Directors has made the very tough decision to not hold the Soup Supper at the Soldotna Sports Complex as originally planned. Everyone was looking forward to visiting, sharing food, friendship and gratitude with our neighbors.

Souper Heros

WE FEED PEOPLE



Platinum



Gold



Silver



Bronze

LYNDEN

PARKER HORN CON

SALAMATOF NATIVE ASSOC.



POLARIS XP 900

DRAWING TO BE HELD AUGUST 22, 2020

Retail value \$15,638.98

- ⇒ ProStar high-output engine
- ⇒ On-demand All-wheel Drive
- ⇒ VersaTrac Turf Mode
- ⇒ Electric Power Steering
- ⇒ Adjustable tilt wheel
- ⇒ 1,000 Pound Rear Dump Box
- ⇒ 1,500 lb Pay Load Capacity
- ⇒ 1,000-pound towing capacity
- ⇒ Seating for 3
- ⇒ Front Hood Storage Rack
- ⇒ Polaris Heavy Duty 4,500 lb Winch

2 Roundtrip Tickets

Anywhere

Alaska Airlines Flies

Only \$100 per ticket

Only 100 tickets available



To accommodate social distancing you may purchase your raffle tickets by just giving us a call at 262-3111 or email Randi at randi@kpfoodbank.org. You can give us your payment information over the phone and we can deliver your ticket to you, or we can take a picture of your ticket stub and text it to you. **DRAWING TO BE HELD AUGUST 22, 2020**





Thanks to everyone who participated in the **Fred Meyer Round Up**. The spare change from your credit or debit card purchases allows us to feed hungry families, seniors, veterans and those with special needs. **In 2019 that amounted to \$1,259.08!**

Thank you to all the people who had **Facebook Fundraisers** for the Food Bank. Many people request friends donate to their favorite cause in leu of birthday gifts. **In 2019 that amounted to \$3,134.00**

Monthly Donors contribute monthly often through automatic payments from debit/ credit cards or PayPal accounts and many folks simply write a monthly check. Your steadfast support is appreciated. **In 2019 Monthly Donors contributed nearly \$20,000.00.**

Meal-A-Month contributors sponsor lunches by donating \$100 per month to support our meal programs. **In 2019 that amounted to over \$8,000.00.**

Food Drives gathered over **744,542 pounds** of food of last year. Incredible!

EMPLOYEE GIVING, usually through payroll deductions and employer incentive programs came to over **\$12,000.00** with employers matching most of that. Designated contributions through **United Way** came to **\$14,000.00.**

PICK CLICK GIVE amounted to over **\$12,000.00** in 2019.

If you would like more information on ways to support the Food Bank you can visit our website @ www.kpfoodbank.org



DOUBLE YOUR COUPONS!

This summer, you can double the value of your WIC and/or Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program coupons! With help from generous local donors, Kenai Local Food Connection and Kenai Peninsula Food Bank are launching **Double-UP**, a program that will match the value of coupons for the purchase of fresh, locally-grown produce. The program will be based at Farmers Fresh Market, which is held at the Food Bank every Tuesday, 3 - 6 pm from June 16 through September. The tentative start date is Tuesday, July 7. For updates, see the Peninsula Clarion, bulletins from this senior center or WIC office, or visit Kenai Peninsula Food Bank or Kenai Local Food Connection on Facebook.



The Farmers Fresh Market

Beginning June 16, 2020 every Tuesday 3pm thru 6pm until the end of September.

The Farmers Fresh Market is a collaborative effort by local growers, Kenai Peninsula Food Bank, Kenai Soil & Water Conservation District and UAF Cooperative Extension and a support grant from TOTE.

The Farmers Fresh Market welcomes all growers of farm, garden, and greenhouse products to participate in a weekly market. The Market's mission is to aid in the development of a sustainable, local agricultural community for the benefit of the Central Peninsula region by:

If you have any questions, please contact Linda Kendall at 262-3111 or lindak@kpfoodbank.org



A message from the Director:

March 17, 2020, the Kenai Peninsula Food Bank served a special St. Patrick's Day meal to our neighbors. It was a fun day; we had a great turnout. We had made a few adjustments to our routine to ensure we kept our staff, volunteers, and neighbors healthy as well as fed. As we cleaned up that afternoon, we celebrated feeding almost 100 people that day, as the Fireweed Diner averages 45 a day normally. This would mark the last meal served in the Fireweed Diner for days....weeks....months.

March 18, 2020, the Food Bank found it necessary to close its doors to inside food service and distribution. The staff and board scrambled to read all the mandate requirements, how to provide a hot meal in a "to go" box. How to provide the TEFAP and CSFP boxes that our neighbors depend on each month - without coming inside the building and signing paperwork. How to safely pick up food from the local stores and how to safely handle, process and distribute that food. How to serve our 75 agencies with their food needs. Who is still able to work? Who is still able to volunteer? Through long days combined with trial and error new procedures were put in place.

We were feeling like we had a good plan in place until the reality of the food and PPE shortage hit. Shoppers bought up the food and our donations from the stores diminished. Our friends and supporters in the restaurant and food service industry had to shutter their businesses. This was not only our reality, but the entire community, state, country and world. With the businesses closing, job loss followed. Alaska is facing additional struggles unique to our state, plummeting oil demand and prices. Instantly we faced the need to provide more food and meals to our neighbors when resources were drying up.

In conjunction with plans to keep the Food Bank open, calls of support began. This amazing community began providing even though they too were struggling. Inventory from the closing restaurants was dropped off to provide meals for the Fireweed Diner. Restaurants that stayed open for "to go" orders cooked meals for the Food Bank during their quiet times. Service groups ordered food from local businesses to provide income for them as well as meals for the Food Bank - what an amazing idea! Generous cash donations were received from businesses, civic groups, churches, foundations, and caring community members. Food drives have brought in food that we can place directly into the hands of our neighbors. Funds to purchase a good, used truck have made it possible for us to pick up more food as well as deliver more food to the remote areas of the Kenai Peninsula.

Your support has enabled us to continue our mission of "We Feed People, Because Nobody Deserves to be Hungry." **Your support** has enabled us to provide an average of 120 hot meals a day from the Fireweed Diner, food boxes for the long weekends, emergency food distribution, increased requests for our commodity programs, and our food recovery program. **Your support** is enabling our gardens to be bigger to provide more fresh vegetables. **Your support** will enable us to modify our building to make is safe for all who enter. *It is with the most sincere, heartfelt words I can speak.....thank you. Thank you for pulling together as a community to serve all our neighbors. You are an amazing community and it is a blessing to live and serve here.*

Greg