

KENAI PENINSULA

# Food Bank

NEW YEAR NEWSLETTER  
JANUARY/FEBRUARY

## What's New?

**RAFFLE TICKETS ON SALE NOW!**

**SAINT PATRICK'S DAY PARADE**

- MARCH 17TH, 2 PM

**NEIGHBOR DAY**

- MAY 4TH

**SPRING FESTIVAL**

- JUNE 14TH, 11 AM - 3 PM

**KPFB REMODEL**

- HAPPENING RIGHT NOW!

## New Year New Food Bank

Happy new year from our KPFB family to yours! We can't thank you enough for all the support you've given us throughout 2023. With the SNAP backlog that affected thousands of Alaskans everyday, the rise in fuel and food prices, the 74% decrease in government commodities, the increased needs in our communities, and more, we were facing bigger challenges than we ever imagined were possible. Thankfully, with

your support, we were able to meet the challenges head on and do the best we could to ensure no one went hungry. Your support went towards expanding our reach and increasing the assistance we provide to communities such as Hope, Nanwalek, Tyonek, Seward, and more! The hundreds of volunteers donated more than 6,500 hours over the year, helping in food distribution, operations, remodeling, and events. Sponsors, donors, partner agencies, vendors, and the state of Alaska poured out support to help us cover the costs of expanding our services so that even in this crisis we were able to keep our neighbors fed.

Thank you so much to all our volunteers, food drive hosts, vendors, donors, the state of Alaska, and sponsors! We couldn't have made it through the year without you!

*Delivering much needed food  
to Homer*



Last year, the contributions you gave helped feed so many people suffering from food insecurity across the Kenai Peninsula. Because of you, we were able to expand our reach into new areas on the peninsula and increase the aid we give to places we already serve. By hosting and sponsoring events and food drives, you helped give fresh produce, birthday bags, emergency food, firewood, pet food, meals, and more to your neighbors in need. Thank you so much for helping our community by hosting drives, donating, and supporting events!



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Your gifts to our neighbors are incredible!

*Greg went to Juneau to help!*

## Hungry For Change in Alaska

There are two bills before lawmakers that could expand food aid access and would make changes to the way SNAP processes applications. The proposals come after over a year of severe delays in SNAP distribution across Alaska that have left thousands of vulnerable people without aid for extended periods of time, driving many into debt and inundating food banks and pantries with overwhelming numbers of food-insecure families.



## The Potential Changes

Gov. Dunleavy is proposing to add \$5 million in aid to the food banks across Alaska as the state continues to work through the SNAP backlog and food banks bridge the gaps in supporting the hungry. Senate Bill 149 is working to change SNAP itself by implementing a broad-based categorical eligibility, which means that people qualified for other types of benefits would automatically qualify for SNAP. The bill also increases the amount of money Alaskans can make and still receive benefits.



## What can you do to help?

SNAP is still our most effective program to address hunger in Alaska, but the current model isn't working. The asset test that is in use often work against Alaskans working to get out of food instability by penalizing them for obtaining assets needed for their survival, like a car to travel to work. Help make the proposed changes a reality by supporting Senate Bill 149 and the increased budget!



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## Annual Raffle Tickets for Sale!

**CANOPIA SNAP & GROW  
GREENHOUSE WITH EXTENSION KIT**



**\$50 per Raffle Ticket**

Drawing on Friday, June 14th, 2024 at KPFB's Spring Festival Event. Need not be present to win. Greenhouse is 8'x8'. Extension Kit is 8'x4'

Here is your chance to win an incredible prize as well as help support KPFB! If you would like to purchase a ticket or get more information please call 907-416-7619 or stop by the food bank!

Win 2 Round Trip Tickets, anywhere Alaska Airlines fly's



**\$100 per Raffle Ticket  
Only 100 Tickets being sold!**

Drawing on Saturday, August 24th, 2024, at KPFB's Soup Supper Event. Do not have to be present to win.

## Upcoming Events



Join us in celebrating Neighbor Day on May 4th! We want to celebrate our neighbors with a generosity movement unleashing the power of radical kindness.



Lend your neighbors a helping hand by donating your time, treasure, and talents to KPFB!

**SAINT Patrick's DAY  
PARADE**

Join us at the parade this year and support feeding the hungry!

**March 17th  
2 pm**



**Spring FESTIVAL**

**June 14th  
11 am to 3 pm**

Join us at KPFB for our annual Spring Festival! There will be delicious food, interactive booths, and summer-themed prizes!

**33955 Community College  
Drive, Soldotna, Ak 99669**



**SOLDOTNA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE DONATED 92 POUNDS OF FOOD FROM THEIR FOOD DRIVE**



**SKYVIEW MIDDLE SCHOOL SOURCES OF STRENGTH DONATED 322 POUNDS OF FOOD FROM THEIR FOOD DRIVE**



**SOLDOTNA HIGH SCHOOL DONATED 524 POUNDS OF TURKEY AND HOLIDAY FOODS FROM THEIR FOOD DRIVE**



**WALMART DONATED 165 POUNDS OF FOOD FROM THEIR FOOD DRIVE**

**KENAI CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL DONATED 736 POUNDS OF FOOD FROM THEIR FOOD DRIVE**

**THE SOLDOTNA LIONS CLUB RAISED 299 POUNDS OF FOOD FROM THEIR ORCA THEATER EVENT**

**MS. BAKUIT'S 2ND GRADE CLASS OF SOLDOTNA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL VOLUNTEERED AT KPFB**



**THE CAN-STRUCTION EVENT COORDINATED BY SHARON HALE AT REDOUBT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DONATED 1413 POUNDS OF FOOD**



**THE SAFEWAYS OF SOLDOTNA AND KENAI AND ALL THE SAFEWAY SHOPPERS RAISED FUNDS TO FEED THE HUNGRY ON THE PENINSULA**



**DIAMOND DANCE PROJECT DONATED 386 POUNDS OF FOOD FROM THEIR HOLIDAY FOOD DRIVE**



**THE KENAI EAGLES DONATED 318 POUNDS OF FOOD FROM THEIR HOLIDAY FOOD DRIVE**

*Thank you to all our amazing volunteers, staff, board members, donors, and sponsors!*

# HILCORP NIGHT

The Hilcorp sponsored Kenai River Brown Bear's night was a huge success on December 1st! The Soldotna Sports Center was packed to the brim with sports fans, who brought in a collective 5,212 pounds of food and \$1,045. We at KPFB are so grateful to Hilcorp and the Kenai River Brown Bears for putting together such an amazing event and donating the proceeds to us. Thank you so much to everyone who contributed!

Thank you to all who joined us for KPFB's Christmas Meal!

We also want to thank everyone who contributed to making the meal a success, including Chef Stephen, all our fantastic volunteers, the 2nd graders from Soldotna Elementary School who made and decorated seasonal placemats, Fred Meyers Soldotna who included flowers in their regular donation, and so many more!



**KCHS WRESTLING TEAM, TRINITY CHRISTIAN CENTER, REVIVE YOUTH MINISTRY AND JIU-JITSU KIDS FROM AK49 MARTIAL ARTS VOLUNTEERED AT KPFB**



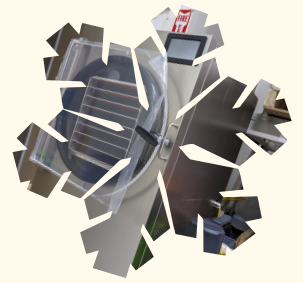
**CENTRAL PENINSULA FAMILY PRACTICE & PEDIATRICS DONATED 150 POUNDS OF FOOD FROM THEIR FOOD DRIVE**



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# Freeze Dryer Project

Last year, we obtained a grant to start our freeze dryer project from the American Heart Association. We started the project with the hopes of increasing food reclamation, elongating the shelf life of perishable foods, and providing nutritious foods to our neighbors all year round.



**LINDA UNLOADING VEGETABLES**



**TINA PREPPING A NEW BATCH**



**FREEZE DRIED APPLES**



**FREEZE DRIED TOMATO SOUP**

With the help of our amazing volunteers, especially Linda and Tina, we've been able to save hundreds of pounds of food!



## PROJECT HOMELESS CONNECT

Project Homeless Connect was able to reach 140 people struggling with homelessness! Participants were able to receive backpacks with supplies, hot meals, pet services, immunizations, haircuts, and so much more. KPFB was able to help by providing the event meals, in addition to having a booth.



We had a great turnout at our Valentine's day meal this year! Thank you to Chef Stephen and all our amazing volunteers for making it possible!

# Valentine's Day



# WAREHOUSE REMODEL

THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO IS HELPING US WITH THIS PROJECT!

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## NEW AND IMPROVED WAREHOUSE FEATURING

- New Agency Area
- New Cache
- Separating the Ins and the Outs
- New Coolers
- New Shelving
- New Offices
- New Volunteer Working Area

## EVEN MORE IMPROVEMENTS COMING AS WE WORK TO FINISH THE PROJECT

### OUR PLANNING

Thanks to the infrastructure grant from the Food Bank of Alaska, we have been remodeling our warehouse since last year. We are so excited about the latest changes, and are hopeful that it will streamline what we do for our neighbors, staff, and partners!



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 for everyone to live. All donations are tax deductible and donors will receive tax documentation from the State once the donation has been processed. Permanent Fund Dividend applications are available until March 31, though Alaskans can choose to add or adjust their pledges online until August 31. File for your PDF or add a pledge at [pfd.alaska.gov](http://pfd.alaska.gov)



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Soldotna, AK 99669  
907-416-7619; Fax: 907-416-7623

### Have you considered?

Email communication helps to reduce postage costs, and can 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, but would like to, please contact [lmurray@kpfoodbank.org](mailto:lmurray@kpfoodbank.org)

**THIS INSTITUTION IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER.**

Visit our website and social media pages!

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Instagram: @kenaipenisulafoodbank  
Facebook: facebook.com/kpfoodbank  
Website: [kpfoodbank.org](http://kpfoodbank.org)

