



KENAI PENINSULA



Food Bank

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

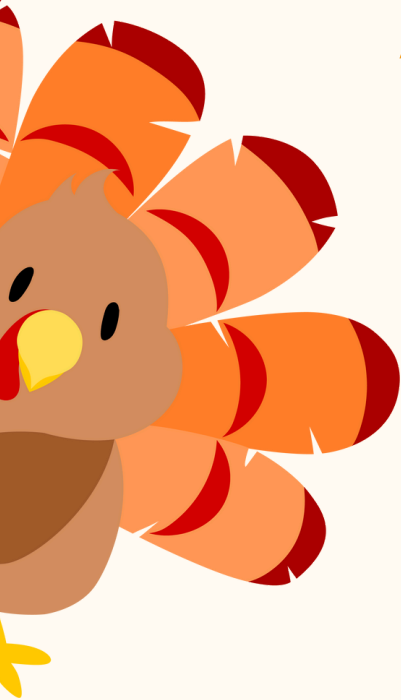
November 2024



A NEW CHAPTER

As fall turns into winter, the food bank is turning the page to a new chapter as our amazing leader Greg Meyer moves back home to Minnesota. Greg has been a true hunger hero in his time at the food bank, helping our communities through the pandemic, expanding the food bank's services and funding, and ensuring that nobody went hungry over the past 6 years. We know we speak for the entire state when we say we will miss Greg!

As we begin to write this new chapter for the food bank, we thank you all for your continued support and dedication to helping our neighbors struggling with food insecurity across the peninsula. With government commodities decreasing, food shortages, and more, our neighbors need all the help they can get this holiday season. Consider adopting a turkey, volunteering to serve lunch, or hosting a food drive for the holidays. Thank you!



WHAT'S NEW?

Adopt a Turkey

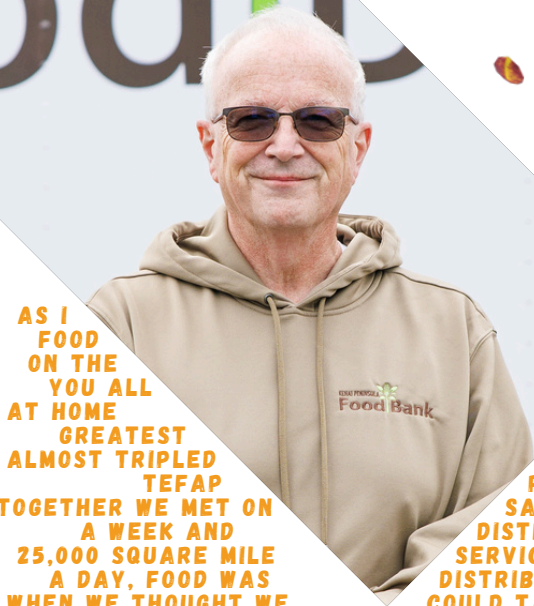
Now till the end of November

Thanksgiving Dinner in the Fireweed Diner

November 27th 11:30 am - 1 pm



Farewell FROM Greg 2



AS I PONDERS HOW TO START MY FINAL CHAPTER AT THE KENAI PENINSULA BANK, I AM AT A LOSS FOR WORDS. MY TIME AT THE FOOD BANK AND KENAI PENINSULA WAS ONE OF THE GREATEST EXPERIENCES OF MY LIFE. WELCOMED DIANE AND I IN THE WARMEST WAY. WE FELT LIKE WE WERE WITHIN DAYS. THANK YOU. TOGETHER WE FACED ONE OF THE WORLD'S CHALLENGES, LIVING THROUGH THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC. THE FOOD BANK ITS OUTPUT IN A MATTER OF MONTHS. TOGETHER WE DISTRIBUTED 3,000 PRODUCE/FOOD BOXES A WEEK ACROSS THE PENINSULA. SATURDAYS AND SUNDAYS AND ASSEMBLED 3,000 FOOD BAGS DISTRIBUTED THEM TO EVERY CORNER OF OUR SERVICE AREA. THE FOOD BANK NEVER MISSED DISTRIBUTED, AND MEALS WERE SERVED. JUST COULD TAKE A BREATH, THE STATE OF ALASKA NEED TO SUPPORT OUR NEIGHBORS BACK UP INTO HISTORIC NUMBERS. AGAIN, THANKS TO THE SUPPORT OF OUR COMMUNITY AND FUNDERS, WE HAVE MET THE CHALLENGES HEAD ON. IT HAS NOT BEEN EASY, BUT TOGETHER, WE HAVE DONE IT AND WILL CONTINUE TO DO SO. IT IS OVERWHELMING TO HAVE BEEN A PART OF AN ORGANIZATION WITH SO MANY DEDICATED VOLUNTEERS. WITH A SMALL STAFF, OUR WORK WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE WITHOUT THEM. THEIR COMMITMENT TO THIS COMMUNITY AND TO OUR NEIGHBORS IS INCREDIBLE. OUR AMAZING VOLUNTEERS DO NOT JUST ENABLE OUR NEIGHBORS TO BE FED BUT THEY SHOW KINDNESS AND COMPASSION AS THEY INTERACT AND ENCOURAGE ALL THOSE WE SERVE. THE IMPACT ON THE FOOD BANK, OUR COMMUNITY AND OUR NEIGHBORS IS IMMEASURABLE. THE AND THIS COMMUNITY IS BLESSED WITH THE STRONG OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS. OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS DEDICATION, HEART AND VISION. EACH BOARD MEMBER IS COMMITTED TO THE MISSION OF THE FOOD BANK AS WELL AS SERVING WITH MANY OTHER IMPORTANT CAUSES THROUGHOUT OUR COMMUNITY. IT IS THROUGH THEIR DEDICATION AND LEADERSHIP THAT VERY IMPORTANT POSITION IN THE COMMUNITY. IT IS THROUGH THEIR POSSIBLE WITHOUT THE MOST AMAZING TEAM OF COWORKERS I HAVE EVERY BEEN BLESSED TO WORK WITH. THEIR UNWAVERING COMMITMENT TO FIGHT INSECURITY IN OUR COMMUNITIES, COMBINED WITH THEIR COLLABORATION AND IS OF EPIC ENGAGEMENT TO IMPROVE THE PROPORTIONS. THE WORK BEHIND AND COMMUNITY ACROSS THE IS OF EPIC PROFESSIONAL MANNER TAKES ALMOST EVERY ASPECT OF THEIR THE DRAMATIC INCREASE IN OUR AND UPGRADING OUR ABILITY TO TO MANGE OUR INVENTORY TO INCREDIBLE ENERGY, HARD BANKS RESOURCES AND ABILITY EMOTIONAL.....AND WE DID IT! FOOD BANK FAMILY HURTS THE MOST. WE CELEBRATED...WEDDINGS, ARRIVAL OF OUR WEEKLY "BOARD MEETINGS." WE SPENT HOURS WE HAD NEVER HAD TO ENGAGE IN BEFORE. WE EACH OTHER THROUGH ILLNESSES, SURGERIES, LOSS OF FAMILY MEMBERS, LOSS OF COWORKERS, COWORKERS MOVING ON, LOSS OF PETS, AGING PARENTS AND LIFE'S EVERYDAY STRUGGLES. WE ARE NOT JUST COWORKERS; WE LEAVE WITH A HEAVY HEART BUT MOVE ON TO MORE TIME "OTHER" FAMILY; A 94-YEAR-OLD MOM WHO ASKS DAILY WHO WANTS TO GO THE PARK EVERY DAY. MOST IMPORTANTLY I KNOW THAT THE FOOD BANK IS IN GREAT HANDS, RUNNING SMOOTHLY, STRONGLY AND IS READY TO TAKE ON WHATEVER THE FUTURE HAS TO OFFER. WITH DEDICATED LEADERSHIP, AMAZING STAFF AND AN ARMY OF VOLUNTEERS, IT WILL FLOURISH! I CLOSE WITH WORDS FROM MY TWO FAVORITE ANIMATED HEROES; WOODY - "YEE-HAW! GIDDY-UP, PARTNER! WE GOT TO GET THIS WAGON TRAIN A-MOVIN'!" AND BUZZ LIGHTYEAR - "TO INFINITY AND BEYOND!"

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PASSION FOR LIVES OF OUR NEIGHBORS THE SCENES TO ENSURE EACH PERSON, PANTRY KENAI PENINSULA IS SERVED IN A KIND, HOURS OF HARD WORK. THIS TEAM HAD TO RETOOL JOBS AS WE REMODELED THE BUILDING TO ACCOMMODATE SERVICES. THE NEEDED ADDITION OF NEW SOFTWARE RESPOND QUICKLY TO INCREASED NEED AS WE ALSO NEED MEET STRICT GUIDELINES AND MANDATES TOOK WORK AND PATIENCE. TOGETHER WE GREW THE FOOD TO SERVE. IT WAS HARD, IT WAS STRESSFUL, IT WAS LEAVING THIS COMMUNITY IS PAINFUL, BUT LEAVING MY TOGETHER, WE DIDN'T JUST FACE THE CHALLENGES AT WORK, BABIES, STAFF RETREATS, HOLIDAY MEALS, NEW PETS AND SOFTWARE AND AUDITS THAT EACH OTHER THROUGH ILLNESSES, SURGERIES, LOSS OF FAMILY MEMBERS, LOSS OF COWORKERS, COWORKERS MOVING ON, LOSS OF PETS, AGING PARENTS AND LIFE'S EVERYDAY STRUGGLES. WE ARE NOT JUST COWORKERS; WE LEAVE WITH A HEAVY HEART BUT MOVE ON TO MORE TIME "OTHER" FAMILY; A 94-YEAR-OLD MOM WHO ASKS DAILY WHO WANTS TO GO THE PARK EVERY DAY. MOST IMPORTANTLY I KNOW THAT THE FOOD BANK IS IN GREAT HANDS, RUNNING SMOOTHLY, STRONGLY AND IS READY TO TAKE ON WHATEVER THE FUTURE HAS TO OFFER. WITH DEDICATED LEADERSHIP, AMAZING STAFF AND AN ARMY OF VOLUNTEERS, IT WILL FLOURISH! I CLOSE WITH WORDS FROM MY TWO FAVORITE ANIMATED HEROES; WOODY - "YEE-HAW! GIDDY-UP, PARTNER! WE GOT TO GET THIS WAGON TRAIN A-MOVIN'!" AND BUZZ LIGHTYEAR - "TO INFINITY AND BEYOND!"



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With deepest gratitude for allowing us to be a part of your lives,
 Greg, Diane and Digger 2 Meyer

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THANK YOU SO MUCH TO ALL OUR VOLUNTEERS, POTTERS FROM THE KENAI POTTER'S GUILD AND SOHI CERAMICS, AUCTION ITEM DONORS, AND FOOD AND BEVERAGE DONORS, INCLUDING THE CATCH, SOLDOTNA SAFEWAY, ODIE'S, KENAI CATERING, FLATS BISTRO, LUCY'S MARKET, CHERYL MORSE, TANNER EISENTRAUT, HEARTH EATERY & CATERING, FINE THYME CAFE, SIAM NOODLES AND FOOD, FRANZ BAKERY, KALADI BROTHERS COFFEE, PONY KEG, ODOM CORP, ADDIE CAMP, BECKAROO & THE BREAD GUY, BROTHER'S CAFE, LDS CHURCH, OLDE GOAT CAFE, AND MEL'S!

THANK YOU SPONSORS!



SOUP SUPPER

Thank you to everyone who attended our Soup Supper this year! It was an amazing event, with incredible food, auction items, KPFB swag, beautiful pottery, and the premier of the KPFB informational video!



Huge thank you to Hilcorp and the Kenai River Brown Bears for the Hilcorp Brown Bear Night food drive event! The community raised an incredible 4,777 pounds of food, which will be critical for feeding our neighbors across the peninsula.



IT'S SCARY TO BE HUNGRY

We had a wonderful event at the food bank this year, providing food, candy and prize bags, and family fun to the community. Thank you to everyone who helped with this incredible event, especially KPBSD volunteers who assembled over 300 goodie bags!



HOWL-O-WEEN



Thank you to everyone who made this exciting event possible, especially Pen Dog, Alaskins, 4-H, Kenai Animal Shelter, Cad-Re Feed & Grandma's Cupboard, Kimberly's Pet Emergency, Kenai Feed and Supply, Brian Moon, Peninsula Event Rentals, Well Mannered Carine, Soldotna Sit and Stay, the volunteers, and everyone who donated pet food!

PUMPKIN DROP

Thank you to Kenai Aviation and everyone who helped with the Pumpkin Drop event at the Kenai Airport! It was a fun time with watching the skies.

KPFB CARES EVENT

Huge thank you to ACC and Samaritan's Feet putting together Kicks for the Kenai! Families and individuals came to the food bank and received new athletic shoes and socks while enjoying a BBQ lunch.



Help families and nonprofit agencies across the Kenai Peninsula by adopting a turkey for \$25 today!

Adopt A Turkey



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KPFB partners with nonprofit agencies to provide turkeys to those in need. This year, with costs continuing to rise, we need your help more now than ever!



Marathon has donated enough to cover 400 turkeys and Hilcorp is working to donate as well!

ADOPT TODAY BY SCANNING THE QR CODE!

Going on now, until the end of November

Help us reach our goal of 1,200 turkeys!



THANK YOU!



THE LIONS CLUB DONATED GENEROUSLY TO SUPPORT OUR NEIGHBORS!



ALASKA CHRISTIAN COLLEGE AND OUR VOLUNTEERS HELPED US HARVEST OVER 400 POUNDS OF POTATOES FROM OUR GARDEN!



KENAI LOCAL FOOD CONNECTION DONATED INCREDIBLE AMOUNTS OF FARM FRESH PRODUCE FOR OUR NEIGHBORS!

KENAI PUBLIC HEALTH CENTER PROVIDED IMMUNIZATIONS TO OUR NEIGHBORS RIGHT HERE AT KPFB!



SOLDOTNA FRED MEYER GENEROUSLY DONATED \$2,500 TO KPFB DURING THEIR GRAND RE-OPENING EVENT!

Freeze Dryer Project

Last year, we obtained a grant to start our freeze dryer project from the AHA. We started the project with the hopes of increasing food reclamation, elongating the shelf life of foods, and providing nutrition to our neighbors all year round. Now, thanks to the AIOF, PROC, and SRC we've been able to expand the program even more and reclaim more food for our neighbors suffering from food insecurity!



American Heart Association. Rotary Club of Soldotna, Alaska



Kenai Peninsula Food Bank

33955 Community College Drive
Soldotna, AK 99669
907-416-7619; Fax: 907-416-7623

THIS INSTITUTION IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER.

Visit our website and social media pages!

Twitter: @KPFoodBank
Instagram: @kenaipenisulafoodbank
Facebook: facebook.com/kpfoodbank
Website: kpfoodbank.org



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