

FALL &
WINTER
2024

THE FRONT BURNER

A Thurston County Food Bank Publication

Leadership Transition



Jay Kang at our Warehouse, and pictured below with volunteers during Thurgood Marshall Middle School's Day of Service. Photos by Shanna Paxton Photography.

It is with a mix of gratitude and understanding that we announce the resignation of our President and CEO, Jay Kang, effective January 31, 2025. While his decision to step down is rooted in personal health reasons that require his full attention, we recognize his leadership and commitment, and extend our sincere thanks for his contributions to the food bank and our community.

As we embark on this leadership transition, we remain committed to continuing the impactful work of the Food Bank. The Board of Directors is working closely with Jay to ensure a smooth transition, and we will keep you updated as we move forward.

On behalf of the Board, staff, and community, we thank Jay for his commitment and leadership. We wish him strength, health and fulfillment in the next chapter of his journey.



Thank You

to our 2024
*Board of
Directors*

- Chair** | Philip Kerrigan
- Vice Chair** | Megan Hubbard
- Treasurer** | Steve Hall
- Secretary** | Glenn Waugh
- Board Advisor** | Bruce Wollstein

- Pamela Brokaw
- Jeanne Englert
- Brad Hooper
- Jeff Kopp
- Mariel Plaeger-Brockway
- Naki Stevens
- Kalo Wilcox
- Kris Zabriskie-Olson





To the Thurston County Food Bank, and all the volunteers and contributors who make the world a better place:

I need to thank you for all the work you do, and want to tell you how your donations of time, efforts, money and foods are being used.

Tonite for dinner, the two of us (age 88 and 75) enjoyed these wonderful foods: We started our meal with a green salad, including the unusual and beautiful Dikon radish (free) to spice it up.

I made a tasty meatloaf with the ground burger and turkey (both free) including an egg and onion (free in past deliveries) and ketchup from McDonald's (free packets 😊) to spice it up. I then made some nice Mac and Cheese with the powdered milk, (free), the Bongards cheese (free), and many elbow noodles (free)! The vegetable for the meal was a can of spinach (free) spiced with diced onion (free in past deliveries) and some unsalted butter (free) with some salt (free from McDonald's again 😊) to spice it up.

Dessert for this delicious and nutritious meal was an apple crisp using (free!) apples, using our cinnamon to spice it up!

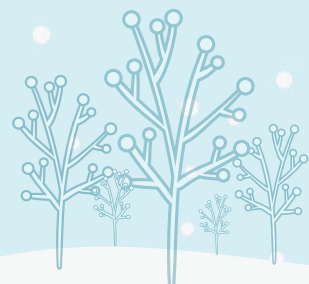
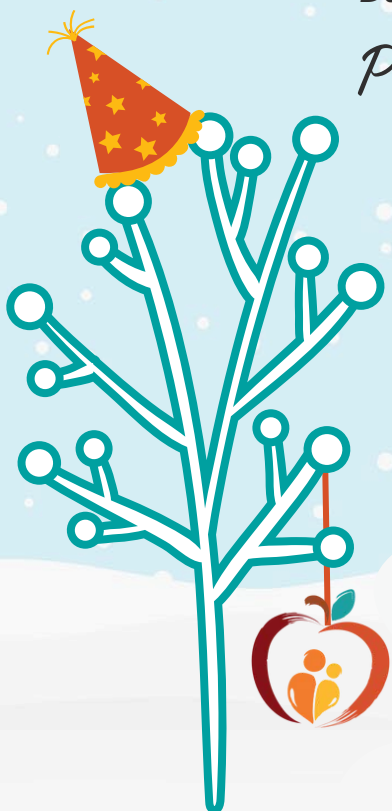
So, this is not the only meal in which we use multiple ingredients from the Thurston County Food Bank, making our dollars stretch a lot further.

Thank you to those who procure the products, pack it and even deliver it to us here near our home. Your work is appreciated! 🍷👍

May your Holidays be joyful!

David and Nona

P.S. I enjoy "spicing up life"!



— from another CSFP (senior commodities) client:



Note~ to whoever may read this:
All the Volunteers, who have been coming to the door, since the BIG covid times, have been so KIND and polite!
Besides the free food, I thank you so much for the respectful kind manner as it matters!!



HOLIDAY CLOSURES

Monday, January 20
Monday, February 17

Join Our Amazing Volunteer Team!

Volunteer Shifts:

Olympia's Food Pantry:
M, W, F: 7:45-12, 11:45-4
Closed every 3rd Monday!
DavidC@tcfb.org

Lacey's Food Pantry:
T, Th: 9-12:30, 12-3
2nd Wed: 3-7pm
MichaelD@tcfb.org
Farm Stand: Sat 9:30-1:15
farmstand@tcfb.org

Tumwater Warehouse:
T, W, Th: 9-12, 1-4
JoeR@tcfb.org

Satellites, Mobiles, Home Deliveries:
RebekahG@tcfb.org

Kiwanis Gardens
gardens@tcfb.org

Gleaning
gardens@tcfb.org

Information & Application:
tcfb.org/volunteer



Current Volunteer Needs

Satellite Program Drivers

We are looking to train volunteers to drive TCFB vans to deliver food to our Satellites. Volunteers need to be able to drive a large van, lift loaded banana boxes, and be organized! It could be once or twice a month, or as a substitute for when other drivers are unavailable. Home base is our Warehouse & Distribution Center in Tumwater.

Please contact Rebekah: RebekahG@tcfb.org or 360-352-8597 ext. 106

Olympia Food Pantry • All PM Shifts

We are in need of more volunteers for all afternoon shifts: Monday/Wednesday/Friday, 11:45am-4pm, at the Olympia Food Pantry.

Please contact David for more information: DavidC@tcfb.org or 360-352-8597 ext. 207. Or sign up using the link/QR code below!

Lacey Food Pantry • Thursdays • 2nd Wed. PM

Our Lacey Food Pantry seeks more volunteers for the following shifts:

- The 2nd Wednesday of each month evening shift from 3-7pm
- Thursdays: morning 9am-12:30pm & afternoon 12-3pm shifts

Please contact Michael for more information: MichaelD@tcfb.org or 360-352-8597 ext. 252. Or sign up using the link/QR code below!

Student Volunteers

"Hi. I need 50 volunteer hours for a school requirement." *"Great! When do you need to have your volunteer hours completed?"* *"Um... tomorrow?"* Don't let this happen to you! Why not knock out those hours during school breaks or all year? Bring your friends or family! We'd love your help!



Exuberant volunteers from our partners at the **Lewis-Mason-Thurston Area Agency on Aging** helped out in a big way over the holidays!



Upcoming Events & Volunteer Opportunities

SAVE THE DATES!



Growers' Meeting

Farmers, community gardens, schools, and back-yard gardeners welcome

Feb
date
TBD



Seasonal Stakeholder Meeting

Olympia Food Pantry, 4–6pm
Join us for TCFB news & updates

Mar
date
TBD



Olympia Arts Walk

Join us for a festive arts experience that uses creativity to connect and engage

Apr
25
&
26



Hunger Walk

Fundraiser for TCFB & The Community Kitchen

May
4



Letter Carriers' Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive

Multiple roles/shifts/locations; email volunteers@tcfb.org

May
10



Seasonal Stakeholder Meeting

Warehouse, 4–6pm
Join us for TCFB news & updates

Jun
date
TBD

Holiday Meal Successes

During Thanksgiving week 2024, TCFB — via our food pantries, satellites, mobiles, home deliveries and partners — provided over 3,000 households with food to prepare delicious holiday meals. We could not have done it without tremendous volunteer and staff support.

In November, 680 wonderful volunteers gave 3,865 hours of their time to help us with all manner of tasks to prepare for holiday distributions — sorting, bagging, and boxing — and with bustling service day ACTION including deliveries and cleanup. Thanks to ALL the staff and volunteers who made it happen! And thanks also to folks who donated turkeys, with a huge shout-out to Munoz Home Group and Ricardo's Kitchen & Bar who teamed up to donate 500 birds!



Winter Activity Bags

by Anna-Min Kellogg



The shortest, darkest day of the year has passed, but our community's generous spirit continues to bring light during winter days. From crafty crocheters and knitters to Panorama's wonderful woodworkers, from the continuous commitment from quilting guilds to the stocking-stuffing squads (like the Soroptimists) — it's truly magical to watch our community come together to spread good cheer. The unbridled excitement of one girl, tugging on her mother's coat, itching to grab all the goodies as they picked out their Winter Activity Bag, was a beautiful moment exemplifying the brightness that winter holds for many.



With support from several churches, schools, state agencies, local businesses, and individual community members, we provided Winter Activity Bags to **1,400 kids** to enjoy over their winter break!

Thank you to all of the donors and volunteers who made it possible!

Olympia Pantry's Outside Mural



The expanse of bare walls outside of our downtown Olympia Food Pantry has intrigued painter Fern Tallos for years. This summer, they made a gift to the TCFB community of an incredible building-sized mural inspired by the fresh foods we offer!

Huge thanks to Fern for brightening Franklin St. with their vibrant artwork, and for sharing these great photos! Fern has painted several murals around Thurston Co. — check out their work at www.ferntallos.com.

Raised in Washington state, Fern Tallos is a self-taught artist and craftsman living in Olympia, WA. They have always been drawn to working with organic shapes, the joys of playing with color, and in creating art for the purpose of personal and community healing. As an herbalist and a gardener they are deeply moved by the natural world. Fern's work draws inspiration from the concept that when you heal yourself you are in fact healing the world. Art is healing, nature is healing, beauty is healing.

from www.ferntallos.com

Thank You!



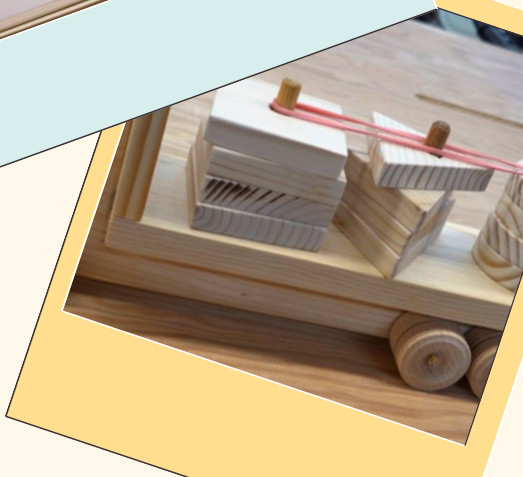
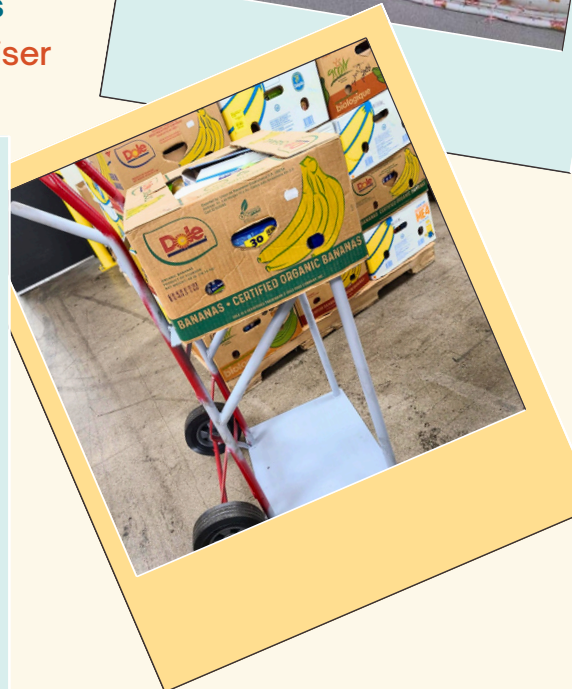
Our Supporters are **VERY** Creative!

How do the wonderful folks who support TCFB help us out? In every way imaginable — and some ways you might never imagine! Below are just a **few** of the creative things that our community did to fight hunger in 2024. We greatly appreciate each and every one of you who engages in our mission!



Clockwise from upper left:

- Mustangs West Ponies in the Park Car Show
- Daniel Walker, Videographer, Lacey Pantry video
- SUP Witches! Olympia paddle board fundraiser
- CFSPS Give Local 3-county nonprofit fundraiser
- Quilters, Sewers, Knitters donations galore
- Volunteer's sorting cart by Zeigler's Welding
- Three Fire Stations' Santa run fundraisers
- The Woodshop at Panorama toys for kids
- Community Loaves shortbread cookies
- Cathy Rutledge's Flower Stand fundraiser



Volunteer Spotlight — Diana!

by Lacey Food Pantry Staff



Diana is one of our amazing check-in volunteers stationed at the Lacey Food Pantry. As the volunteer at the check-in desk, Diana is often the first person a new client will interact with. We understand that it can be overwhelming to get in line and receive our services for the first time. Diana's compassion and genuine care for the clients creates a space for them to process their experience and prepare to shop. As she carefully guides clients through the different services we offer, she is a comforting presence at a moment when clients might feel vulnerable.

When Diana is not volunteering with us, she goes on weekly hikes with the Senior Center. She also goes to Pilates class and spends time training her new puppy, Brinkley, and taking both her dogs for walks.

We asked Diana what keeps her coming back to volunteer with us. She responded, "It's a peak part of my purpose in my post-retirement life, working to make a difference in people's lives. I feel a part of the organization and I feel valued and that I am contributing!"




Thank you, Diana, for all you do!



Thank You TCFB Community!

The Thurston County Food Bank extends a heartfelt **THANK YOU** to the many folks who engaged with us in 2024. We look forward to our continuing partnerships and forming new relationships as we dive into the challenges and rewards of 2025!

Thank
You to...

-  our clients for trusting us as a resource
-  our amazing volunteers for so generously donating their time in 2024
-  our many donors, whose generous donations of food/non-food items and dollars supported our mission and strengthened our community



Need information about our food and non-food services? Interested in volunteering or making a donation? Visit our website at tcfb.org or call us at 360-352-8597.