

Thurston County Food Bank Welcomes John Ficker as Executive Director



The Thurston County Food Bank (TCFB) is thrilled to announce the appointment of John Ficker as its new Executive Director. As food banks across the state brace for potential funding cuts and rising demand, John brings decades of experience in nonprofit leadership and an unwavering commitment to serving the community.

John joins TCFB from the Adult Family Home Council and has previously served with Senior Services for South Sound, Community Youth Services, and TOGETHER!. He is a recognized leader in the field of social services, known for his collaborative spirit, inclusive approach, and ability to drive strategic growth.

“Coming to work at the Thurston County Food Bank is a great opportunity to give back to my community,” said John. “I am humbled to be selected for this important position. What drew me here is the clarity of the mission and the organization’s stellar reputation.”



John with iconic banana boxes at our Warehouse

John addressing donors at our Annual Breakfast Fundraiser in July

John steps into leadership during a time of significant uncertainty. TCFB, which has served as a cornerstone of support for thousands of families, children, and seniors across the region, is beginning to feel the effects of important funding cuts at a time when inflation continues to strain household budgets and food insecurity is rising.

“I am very aware that I am joining this team at a time when funding is at risk and demand for our services is continuing to grow,” said John. “To meet these challenges, I look to my favorite part of our mission: eliminate hunger in the spirit of neighbor helping neighbor. That means we must come together—as donors, volunteers, and advocates—to continue supporting the thousands of families, children, and seniors who rely on us.”



John serenading TCFB staff at the Olympia Kiwanis Food Bank Garden

As Executive Director, John will lead TCFB’s operations and strategic direction, ensuring the organization remains responsive, resilient, and rooted in the community. His focus will include maintaining strong partnerships, expanding outreach, and securing sustainable funding to support essential services.

“As I continue to learn about the complex and far-reaching programs TCFB provides, I’m also eager to get out into the community, meet our partners, and grow our reach,” said John. “This is a moment for bold collaboration and renewed commitment to our mission.”

The Thurston County Food Bank is confident that under John’s leadership, the organization will continue to rise to meet the evolving needs of the community with compassion, innovation, and purpose.