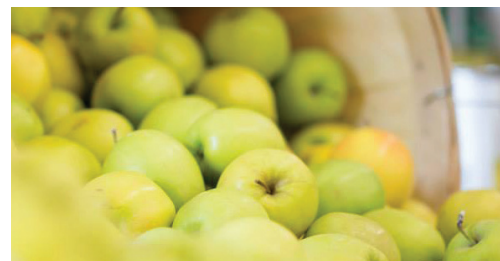




Sustenance

2020 Annual Report



**EMERGENCY
FOOD
NETWORK**

A Message From Our Leaders

As we look back on 2019, we are overwhelmed with gratitude. Gratitude for the volunteers who repacked food at our warehouse and pulled weeds at Mother Earth Farm. Gratitude for the 178 food and fund drives that kept food pantry shelves stocked. Gratitude for the donors who gave funds to purchase and distribute food. And gratitude for the staff and volunteers at our Partner Programs who work every day to help families get the food they need. All that we've accomplished in 2019 was made possible because of you!

We started 2019 with the government shutdown and the fear that thousands of new families would be facing food insecurity. Throughout the year we lobbied against ongoing threats to SNAP benefits, resource eligibility reductions, and other efforts to decrease access to food for those that need it most. At the same time we were able to increase the food pantries that we serve by 11 with a focus on accessibility for community college students. In addition, we added a community garden at our Lakewood location which is providing fruits and vegetables to our closest neighbors throughout the growing season.

We once again find ourselves facing a momentous challenge. In the first two months of 2020, we saw 40,000 more visits than the same time in 2019. The need will only continue to rise with the current COVID-19 pandemic. Our community has already supported us in remarkable ways so that we can respond to the current crisis. Our current response includes:

- Purchasing thousands of meal boxes to go out to families
- Helping set up pop-up distribution sites across the county
- Providing our network of partners with food, funds, volunteer assistance, and emergency supplies to help keep their doors open

On behalf of the Board of Directors and Emergency Food Network staff, we thank you for being with us in 2019 and for continuing to be with us in 2020. Our work is possible because of you.

With gratitude,

Michelle Douglas
Chief Executive Officer

Alice Phillips
Board of Directors, Chair





Board of Directors 2020

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Vice Chair

Mark Winter

Secretary

Shelly Andrew

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Rhys Cooper

Lola Elford

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Who We Are Helping



Emmanuel Food Pantry

St. Andrew's Emmanuel Food Pantry has been serving the Sumner area since 1993. They operate out of two small buildings adjacent to St. Andrew Catholic Church, and routine pickups from EFN and Mother Earth Farm supply most of their food. Manager Arlene Evavold and a small group of dedicated volunteers not only love providing their guests with meals, but also firmly believe that there should be human connection in food assistance. They make a point to get to know a little bit about each person who comes to their doors.

One guest, Mirella, recently welcomed her fifth child. In addition to a household of her own kids, her sister-in-law's family also shares the living space with them. There are now ten people in the household after the new baby's arrival. With costs of rent higher than ever, St. Andrew's Emmanuel Food Pantry has kept Mirella from having to choose whether to pay the bills or feed her family. "I don't know how we could afford to buy groceries without it," she says. She added that she has always felt welcome at the pantry and looks forward to chatting with the staff when she visits.

Food Pantry Guest Stories

"I started coming to this food bank when I was diagnosed with cancer. My doctor told me I needed to eat healthier and I couldn't afford to do that. I need this food bank to supplement my groceries. I would not be eating vegetables if I didn't get them here, I used to eat almost all pre-packaged foods that I could microwave, because that's all I could afford. Now I eat well and feel better."

"I come to this food bank each week, I have found good friends and a support system here. The staff do not judge us, they just want to help. I have friends that are too prideful to come to the food bank, and they are just hungry instead. I often make large meals and bring them to my neighbors because they are going hungry rather than visiting the food bank with me, so I share."





Feedback from EFN's Partner Programs

"We have been told on a number of occasions that without the food bank, people's lives would be difficult. We are honored to be a part of the EFN family so that we can provide for these families."
 – Life Center Rainier Food Bank

"We would not be able to function as a rural food pantry without your partnership. Thank you for your continued work on behalf of our community."
 – Eatonville Family Agency

82

Number of Food Programs that EFN Served in 2019

1.3 Million

Total Guest Visits to Food Programs in Pierce County

114,618

Average Visits to Food Programs in Pierce County Each Month

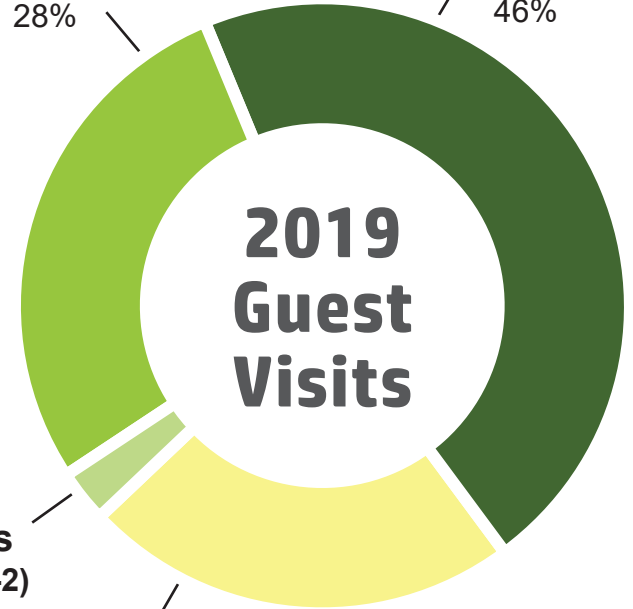
1 in 7

Ratio of People Who Are Food Insecure in Pierce County



Children
 (Ages 3-18)
 384,557
 28%

Adults
 (Ages 19-54)
 626,349
 46%



2019 Guest Visits

54%

Visits made on behalf of children, babies, and seniors

What We Do

Co-op Food Purchasing Program

EFN's Co-op Food Purchasing Program allows us to purchase in bulk throughout the year so we are able to maintain nutritious staple foods for our Partner Programs. In 2019, we distributed 615,892 pounds of Co-op food – more than 492,713 meals! Co-op purchases included canned fruits, canned vegetables, pasta, milk, and frozen chicken. Buying in bulk not only ensures an ample supply of food, it also gets us a great deal! We spend just \$0.53 per pound on chicken, a savings of \$0.87 per pound compared to the average retail price.

Community Garden

We had the great opportunity to provide a new resource to our community in 2019 when we started our community garden at our Lakewood Distribution Center. This small but mighty plot grew 2,658 pounds of produce for our neighbors in its first year. Neighbors gathered each Monday, Wednesday, and Friday morning to pick up tomatoes, cucumbers, eggplants, and squash. We started the garden with starts from Mother Earth Farm and now we even use the garden space to give starts to community members so that they can grow their own food.



Mother Earth Farm

Mother Earth Farm is EFN's 8-acre farm in the Puyallup Valley. Mother Earth Farm is made possible by our farm staff, more than 600 volunteers and interns, and a crew from the Washington Corrections Center for Women. Their combined efforts in 2019 resulted in 160,000 pounds of fruits and vegetables for our partner food pantries!

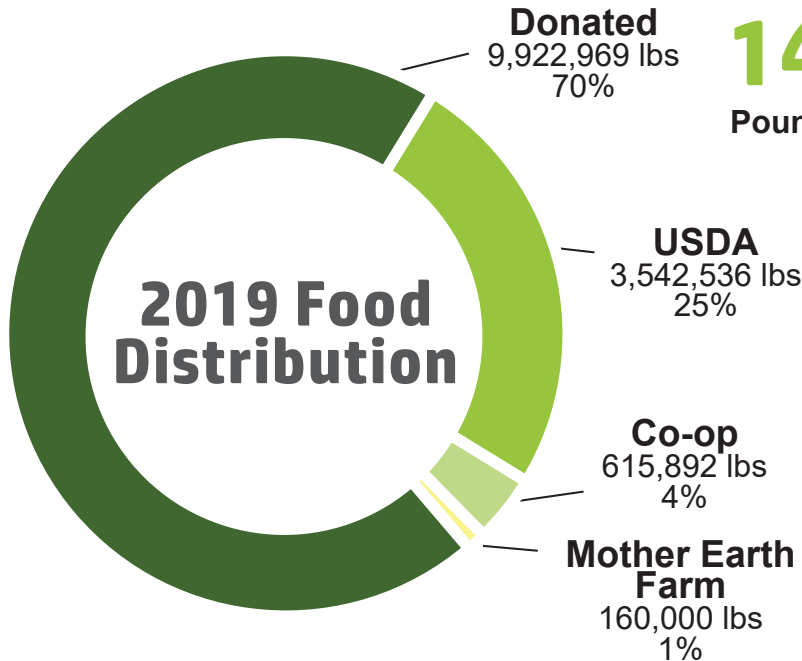
We grow over 100 varieties of fresh, nutritious produce at Mother Earth Farm, and food is often available to food pantry guests within 48 hours of harvest. Mother Earth Farm reflects EFN's value that food is home. EFN uses guest feedback to influence our choices of which produce to grow. By doing this, we can show respect by reflecting their family, heritage, and preferences in the food we choose to grow at Mother Earth Farm. We are proud that the variety of our produce reflects the beautiful cultural diversity of the region we serve.

160,000

**Pounds of Produce
Grown & Harvested
at EFN's Mother
Earth Farm**

Break Bags Program

In Pierce County, more than 60,000 students receive free or reduced-cost lunch, and often breakfast, at school. While students look forward to extended school breaks, for students who rely on free or reduced-cost meals, these breaks may mean going hungry. The Break Bags Program began in 2014 in partnership with St. Leo Food Connection, providing 500 bags to Tacoma Public Schools and Clover Park School District. We now distribute 2,000 Break Bags each Thanksgiving, winter, and spring break. These bags, filled with kid-friendly foods, are meant to supplement the meals that students would normally receive at school. Each Break Bag contains about 15 pounds of food for the student and their family. We include foods like granola bars and peanut butter, as well as canned soup and protein that can make a meal for the whole family. When students go home with a Break Bag, they are less likely to experience hunger during breaks and can return to the classroom ready to learn.



14 Million

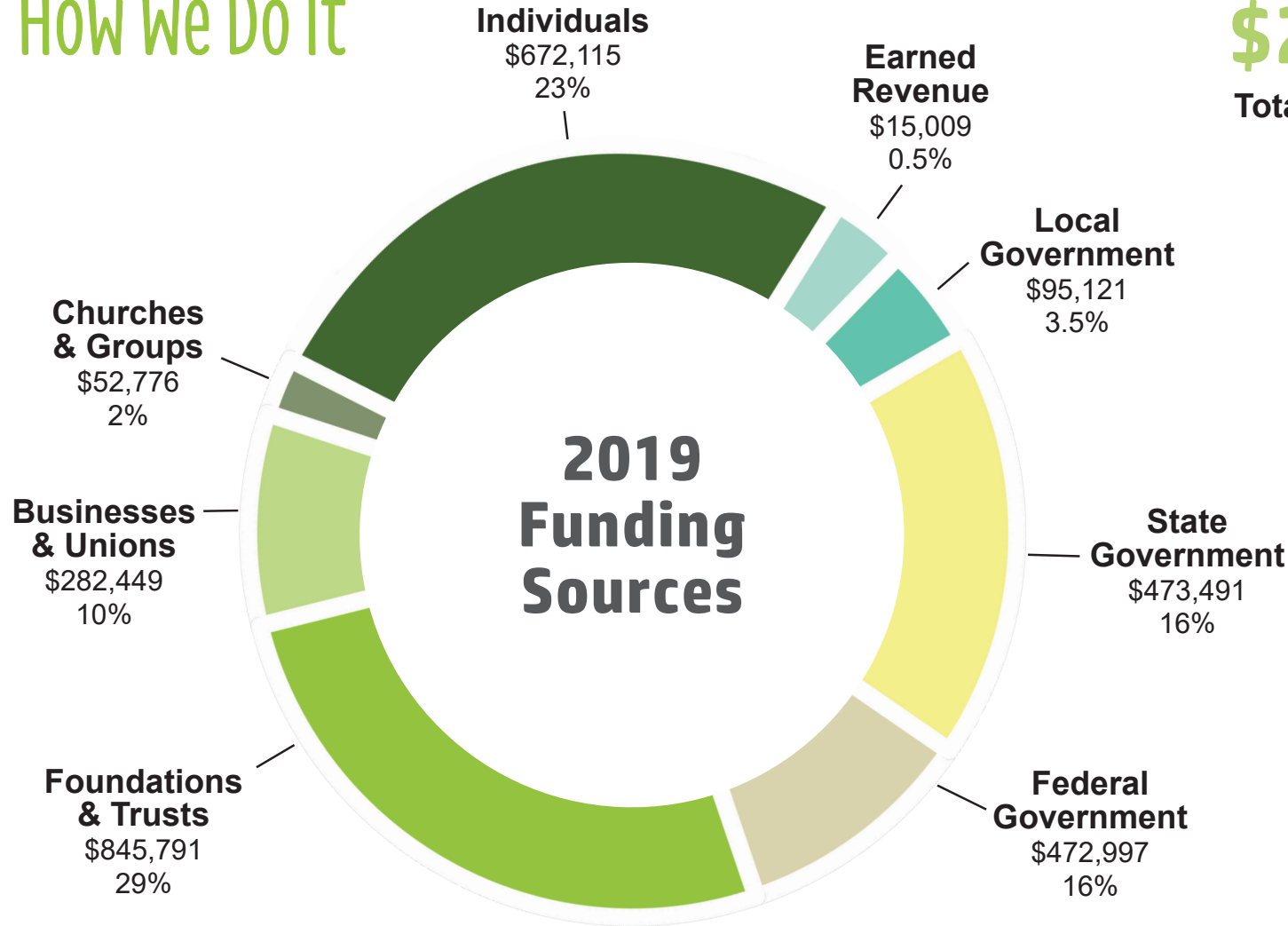
Pounds of Food Distributed in 2019



General Distribution

In 2019, EFN expanded our network, bringing our number of Partner Programs up to 82. Each month, we provided our Partner Programs with more than one million pounds of food. The majority of the food we distribute comes to us as donations through community partners. We receive food donations from the government, farmers, grocery stores, food drives, and individuals. When these donations come in bulk, our awesome volunteers help us sort through giant boxes of bell peppers, potatoes, and other items from the Letter Carriers' Food Drive to repack them into smaller boxes for distribution to our partners. One of our volunteer groups even found a heart-shaped potato last year, which made for a fun photoshoot! By leveraging donated, purchased, and government food with food grown at our Mother Earth Farm, EFN distributes five meals for just \$1.

How We Do It



\$2.9 Million

Total Revenue in 2019

Thank You

Thank you to all the generous donors who made gifts in 2019!

Full financials are available on our website www.efoodnet.org.

EFN has been awarded a 4-Star Rating by Charity Navigator and Platinum Certification on Guidestar.

Grant Support

Thank you to the organizations who made generous grants to Emergency Food Network in 2019!

- 501 Commons
- The Albertson's Companies Foundation
- American Endowment Foundation
- American Express Foundation Employee Matching
- Apple Physical Therapy Foundation
- The Babare Foundation
- George and Dorothy Babare Family Foundation
- The Bamford Foundation
- Bank of America
- Behind the Badge Foundation
- Ben B. Cheney Foundation
- Bruce W. Gilpin Memorial Foundation
- Catherine Holmes Wilkins Foundation
- David Fogg Family Foundation
- De Falco Family Foundation
- Deacon Charitable Foundation
- Dimmer Family Foundation
- The Driscoll Foundation
- Enterprise Holdings Foundation
- Fidelity Brokerage Services LLC
- Fidelity Charitable Gift Fund
 - Brian Carpenter and Amanda Lenderink Carpenter Charitable Fund
 - Gemon Family Fund
 - Gretchen Joridal Fund
 - Randall Lert Charitable Fund
 - Paul and Lita Luvera Charitable Fund
 - Stacie Marlatt Charitable Fund
 - Warren and Elizabeth Martin Charitable Fund
 - Jeffrey and Linda Watts Charitable Fund
- Florence Kilworth Foundation
- Fred Goldberg Family Foundation
- Glein Family Foundation
- Gottfried and Mary Fuchs Foundation
- Greater Cedar Rapids Community Foundation
 - The Simply Organic Charitable Fund
- The Greater Tacoma Community Foundation
 - Ann and Peter Darling Fund
 - Joe and Gloria Mayer Fund
 - McLaughlin Fund
 - Edward P. and Juanita J. Miller Fund
 - Margy McGroarty Fund
 - Reford Family Fund II
 - Todd and Teresa Silver Fund
 - Tucci Family Endowment
- Group Health Foundation
- Hope Garden Club
- The Hyde Family Foundation
- June and Julian Foss Foundation
- KeyBank Foundation
- Kiwanis Club of Tacoma
- The Kroger Co. Foundation
- L. T. Murray Family Foundation
- Margie Suskin Charitable Trust Foundation
- The Greg D and Melanie S McFarland Foundation
- Moccasin Lake Foundation
- Morgan Stanley Gift Fund
- Muckleshoot Charitable Fund
- Multicare Health System
- National Christian Foundation Seattle
 - Brynestad Family Fund
- Nisqually Tribe
- None Will Perish Foundation
- The Norcliffe Foundation
- Partners in Lakewood Rotary
- Powell Family Foundation
- Rotary Club of Clover Park
- Rotary Club of Lakewood
- Rotary Club of Tacoma #8
- Rotary Club of Tacoma Sunset
- Russell Family Foundation
- Safeco Insurance Foundation
- The Schoenfeld-Gardner Foundation
- Schwab Charitable Fund
 - The Camner Family Charitable Fund
 - The Scott & Mary Chapman Charitable Fund
 - The Little Family Charitable Fund
 - The Scherer Family Charitable Fund
 - The Webster Family Charitable Fund
- Simonson Family Living Trust
- Starbucks Foundation
- Sumner Rotary
- The Titus Will Families Foundation
- Tulalip Tribes
- Ueland Foundation
- United Way of King County
- United Way of Pierce County
- US Charitable Gift Trust
 - Veseth Family Fund
- Vanguard Charitable Endowment
 - The Bianco Family Fund
 - The Laura and Grant Gardner Fund
 - The Goelzer Family Fund
 - The Kelley Family Fund
 - The Koontz Family Fund
 - The Ottie and Clara Ladd Charitable Fund
 - The Ogburn Family Fund
 - The Tingstad Charitable Fund
- Whisper Foundation
- William Kilworth Foundation
- Woodworth Family Foundation
- Wyman Youth Trust

How You Can Help



Volunteer

Repack Project

Come to our Lakewood Distribution Center to repackage bulk foods into family-sized portions, or help sort and pack produce donations for distribution to food pantries.

Mother Earth Farm

Help provide a fresh food option by using organic practices to seed, plant, weed, and harvest 100+ varieties of produce at our farm located in the Puyallup Valley.

Food & Fund Drives

Collect food for our neighbors in need and raise hunger awareness by hosting a drive at your school, work, church, or community center.

Other Opportunities

Volunteer at a fundraising event, assist with a mailing, lend a hand at the EFN Community Garden, be a Volunteer Driver, or serve at your neighborhood food pantry!



2019 Volunteer Achievements

2,438 **11,035**

Total Volunteers

Total Hours
Volunteered

1.6 Million 

Total Pounds of Food
Repacked at the Repack Project

 **363,798**
Total Pounds of Food
Collected at Food Drives

Register to volunteer today!

Contact us at (253) 584-1040 or
volunteer@efoodnet.org

View volunteer opportunities on our website
www.efoodnet.org



Donate

Give Funds

EFN provides 5 meals to our neighbors in need for just \$1. Make your donation today online at www.efoodnet.org, call us at 253-584-1040, or mail in the enclosed envelope.

Supper Club

Join the EFN Supper Club! Your monthly donation helps EFN plan for the year and is a convenient way for you to support our work.

Give Food

Your food donations provide variety to supplement the staple items and produce Emergency Food Network distributes to our partner programs.

Leave a Legacy

By making a bequest or other planned gift to EFN, you will leave an important legacy that emphasizes your commitment to seeing that no person in Pierce County goes hungry.

See all the ways you can contribute by visiting our website www.efoodnet.org

Events

Recognition Breakfast

Virtual Event

Thursday, March 12, 2020

Hunger Awareness Month

May 2020

Hunger Walk & 5K Run

Virtual Event

Saturday, May 2, 2020

Letter Carriers' Food Drive

Postponed

Originally Saturday, May 9, 2020

Casino Royale

Saturday, June 13, 2020

Abundance Dinner & Auction

Saturday, October 24, 2020

Empty Bowls

Saturday, November 21, 2020

Read more about EFN's events and register at www.efoodnet.org

Social Media

Stay up to date on what's going on at EFN! Follow us on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and YouTube!





OF TACOMA AND PIERCE COUNTY

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If your name is incorrect or you are receiving duplicate mailings, please contact us at info@efoodnet.org or 253-584-1040. Emergency Food Network does not sell or exchange mailing lists.