



Sustenance

2021 Annual Report



A Message From Our Leaders

What a year! At this point, words like “unprecedented”, “historic”, and “challenging” have all become clichés, but that doesn’t make them any less true. We are writing this message a month after the anniversary of the initial “Stay Home, Stay Healthy” order from the Governor’s office. In the earliest days of the Pandemic, the team at EFN experienced countless sleepless nights as we worried about the projected need and worries of food shortages and hours-long lines at food pantries.

The good news is that despite the challenges EFN and our community faced in 2020, our worst predictions for the year were not realized. With the incredible support of local government, corporate and foundation partners, and individuals, we were able to increase our food purchasing by 400% in 2020 and provide our Partner Programs with PPE and pass-through funding to avoid mass food pantry closures. We saw a 40% increase in visits to the system in 2020 and the need is projected to stay elevated in 2021. We want to acknowledge the countless hardships we have all encountered over the past year; more than 500,000 lives were lost in the U.S. and millions have lost their jobs and savings due to the pandemic. Our thoughts go out to everyone who has experienced losses from COVID-19.

As we look towards the future, we ask you once again to remember hunger and to join us in this work, for the uncertain years ahead. While the ongoing vaccine rollout gives us hope for better days to come, we know that the economic recovery will be slowest for those families hit hardest by the pandemic. Your support now and in the future will allow us to continue our mission; “to provide Pierce County with a consistent, diverse, and nutritious food supply so that no person goes hungry.”

On behalf of the Board of Directors and Emergency Food Network staff, we thank you for all you have done this past year. The stats and stories in this Annual Report are possible because of you.

With gratitude,



Michelle Douglas
Chief Executive Officer



Alice Phillips
Board of Directors, Chair





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Who We Are Helping



New Jerusalem Food Pantry

New Jerusalem Food Pantry has been fighting food insecurity in Tacoma for more than 35 years. It's safe to say they are no strangers to the ups and downs faced by the emergency food system. Since the beginning of the pandemic in March 2020, the food pantry hasn't closed – a status the staff are proud of. In the face of adversity, they have adjusted their self-select method to continue to feed our neighbors in need.

Approximately 32,000 pounds of food are distributed to around 1,000 neighbors each month. In September 2020, 1,159 guests were served from the food pantry. Emergency Food Network partners with New Jerusalem to provide about half of this food; the rest comes from direct donations. On a typical visit, a guest checks in and shares their household size and zip code. After ensuring everyone has properly masked up and sanitized their hands, guests then enter and select the groceries they need. The five staff members are championed by volunteers who perform a variety of tasks from unloading, delivering, bagging, and serving food.

Partners like New Jerusalem are on the front lines of this work, serving the most vulnerable in Pierce County.

Food Pantry Guest Stories

“When the Bonney Lake Food Bank started their Home Delivery Program, it really changed my life. It's hard to go without food. They now deliver to me weekly and they have made it so easy to reach out to them if I needed something. I just got my box of food today and they always do such a good job of giving a variety of food. I get milk, fresh fruit and vegetables, chicken, canned items, pasta and other items that really help get me through the week. They make me feel that just because I don't have very much money, doesn't mean I don't deserve to eat. It is such a comfort to feel that they care about me and I also feel a lot of relief knowing that I will be able to have food every week.”





Feedback from EFN's Partner Programs

“EFN supported with food, PPE, distribution advice, funding, scheduling, health department updates, etc. Clients have loved the increased variety of EFN’s Co-op Food Purchase Program, items, especially the canned dinners. EFN’s level of service has allowed us to increase the amount and variety of food we can offer to our neighbors. ”

– St. Leo Food Connection

“EFN was fantastic at being on the ball right from the beginning of the pandemic. We are a “small fish”, so having the guidance from EFN was invaluable. The staff was always helpful when we had questions and managed the unknown while keeping the safety and well-being of both our volunteers and clients a paramount priority”

– St. Andrews Emmanuel Food Pantry

EFN’s Home Delivery Program

Created in May 2020 to serve community members whose access to food assistance was affected by COVID-19, EFN’s Home Delivery program has grown to serve families all across Pierce County. While we started with 52 deliveries in May, the program finished the year with 1,459 deliveries in December. In 2020, our dedicated group of 45 volunteer drivers delivered over 236,996 meals to over 600 families! Our volunteers drive all throughout Pierce County to reach any neighbor in need, including families in quarantine, older adults and other high-risk individuals, and folks without access to transportation. The Home Delivery Program now serves over 450 families each month and we continue to deliver fresh and nutritious foods. A few recipient favorites include fresh fruits and vegetables, milk, chicken meatballs, and peanut butter.

236,996
Meals Distributed
through Home Delivery

600
Families Served
Directly in 2020



45
Program
Volunteers



What We Do

Break Bag Program

EFN's Break Bag Program provides children experiencing food insecurity with food during extended school breaks such as Thanksgiving, winter, and spring vacations. In Pierce County, 44% of students receive free and reduced-cost lunch. Each student receives a bag containing 17-20 pounds of easy-to-prepare and kid-friendly food, such as canned soup, rice, potatoes, and macaroni and cheese. We have designed each bag to supplement meals for a family of four. The Break Bag Program began in 2014 in partnership with St. Leo Food Connection, provided 500 bags to Tacoma Public Schools and Clover Park School District. We have grown to distribute 2,000 bags each break, totaling 6,000 bags per year.

Community Garden

Our community garden's second year was a great success, providing our staff and Lakewood neighborhood delicious veggies! This small but mighty plot grew 1,898 pounds of produce for our neighbors in 2020. Neighbors gathered Tuesday and Friday mornings each week to pick up tomatoes, cucumbers, eggplants, and squash. We started the garden with starts from Mother Earth Farm, and as part of our Grow Your Food movement, we distribute over 10,000 vegetable starts annually from Mother Earth Farm here and across the county.



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, interns, and more than 200 devoted volunteers. Their combined efforts in 2020 resulted in 100,000 pounds of fresh fruits and vegetables for our partner food pantries! We grow over 100 varieties of 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 plant. By doing this, we can respectfully reflect community members' families, heritage, and choices through the produce we grow. We are proud that the variety of our produce reflects the beautiful cultural diversity of the region we serve.

100,000

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

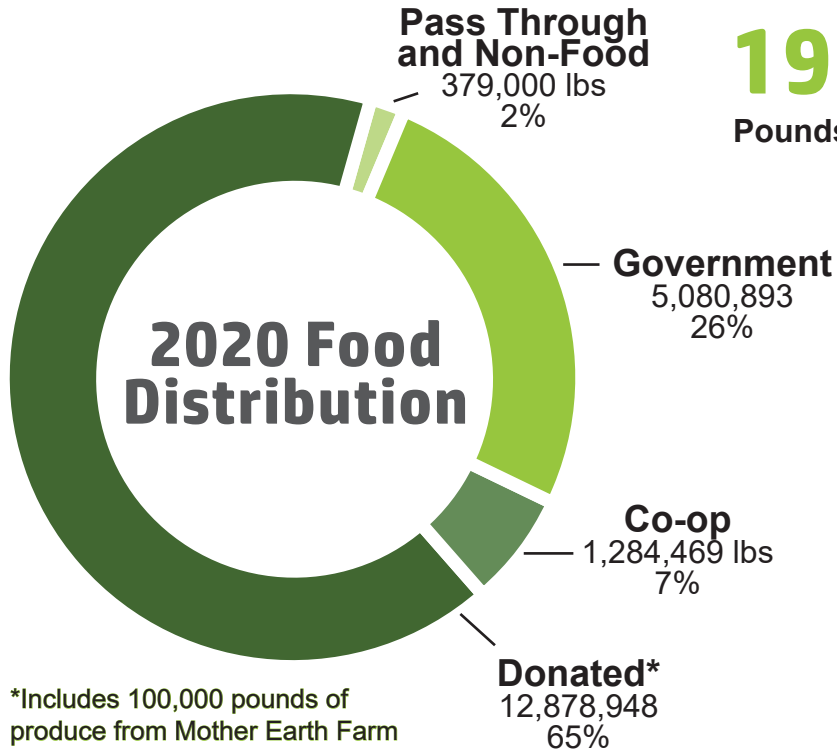
Co-op Program

EFN's Co-op Food Purchasing Program allows us to stretch every dollar by purchasing staple foods in bulk, maintaining our Partner Program's supply of nutritious food. In 2020, we distributed 1,269,799 pounds of Co-op food – more than six million meals! Co-op purchases included lean proteins like chicken and tuna, pasta, canned fruits, coconut milk, and peanut butter. The Co-op Food Purchasing Program looked a lot different in 2020 as increased need required an increase in food purchases. With the support of incredible community partners, we were able to purchase more than \$2 million in food last year for distribution in 2020 and to prepare our inventory for 2021.



19.5 Million

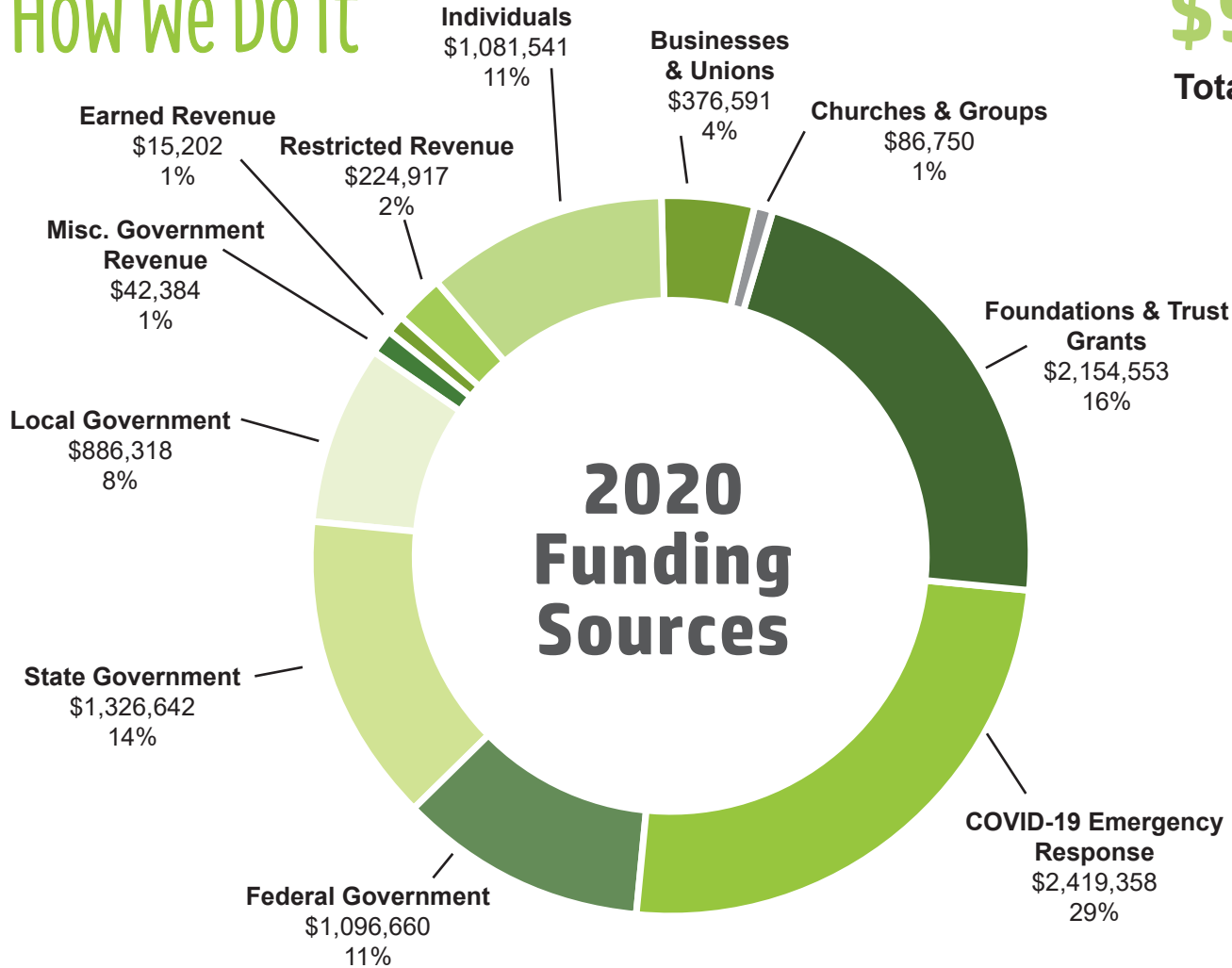
Pounds of Food Distributed in 2020



General Distribution

The COVID-19 pandemic dramatically shifted how we distributed food in 2020. Each month, we provided our Partner Programs with over 1.4 million pounds of food. We received food donations from the government, farmers, food drives, and individuals. In March of 2020, EFN worked together with our Partner Programs to swiftly identify the safest ways to distribute food while keeping food pantry guests safe, such as moving to a drive-through delivery. We also provided PPE and CARES Act funds to our Partner Programs. Through the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program, EFN also distributed Farmers to Families food boxes, providing families with fresh dairy, produce, and meat products directly from agricultural producers. 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



\$9.7 Million

Total Revenue in 2020

Thank You

Thank you to all the generous donors who made gifts in 2020!

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



EFN has been awarded a 4-Star Rating by Charity Navigator.



Grant Support

Thank you to the organizations who made generous grants to Emergency Food Network in 2020!

- Albertson's Companies Foundation
- American Endowment Foundation
 - Friars-Funkhouser Charitable Fund
 - JEN Star Foundation
- Apple Physical Therapy Foundation
- The Babare Foundation
- The Baker Foundation
- The Bamford Foundation
- Ben B. Cheney Foundation
- Bruce W. Gilpin Memorial Foundation
- Catherine Holmes Wilkins Foundation
- Charities Aid Foundation of America
- Charles Schwab
 - George & Dorothy Babare Family Foundation
 - Carter Family Fund
 - Chapman Family Fund
 - Guadnola Family Fund
 - John Linsey and Avis Hinand Fund
 - Robert Reinhard Fund
- David Fogg Family Foundation
- De Falco Family Foundation
- Dimmer Family Foundation
- Fidelity Charitable Gift Fund
 - Allison Campbell and Jason Loan Fund
 - Brian Carpenter and Amanda Lenderink-Carpenter
 - Chakerian Family Fund
 - Gernon Family Donor Advised Fund
 - Grace Family Fund
 - Gretchen Jordal Fund
 - Landholm Family Fund
 - Lert Family Charitable Gift Fund
 - Marlatt Family Fund
 - Martin Family Fund
 - Niagara Cares
 - Watts Family Fund
- Florence Kilworth Foundation
- Fred Goldberg Family Foundation
- Goldman Sachs Philanthropy
 - The Luvera Family Fund
- Gottfried and Mary Fuchs Foundation
- Greater Cedar Rapids Community Foundation
 - Simply Organic
- The Greater Tacoma Community Foundation
 - Barrett/Meeder Legacy Fund
 - Darling Family Fund
 - Edward P. and Juanita J. Miller Fund
 - Lakewood Community Foundation
 - Margy McGroarty Endowment Fund
 - McLaughlin Fund
 - Monroe Family Fund
 - Mowat Family Fund
 - Pierce County Connected Fund
 - Redford Family Fund II
 - Sherry's Legacy Fund
 - Silver Family Fund
- The Greg D and Melanie S McFarland Foundation
- Hokold Foundation
- Homestreet Foundation
- Johnson & Haefling Family Foundation
- KeyBank Foundation
- L. T. Murray Family Foundation
- M.J. Murdock Charitable Trust
- Moccasin Lake Foundation
- Morgan Stanley
 - Cammarano Family Fund
 - Joan Gilbert Fund
- Multicare Health System
- Names Family Foundation
- The Neeb Family Foundation
- None Will Perish Foundation
- Partners in Lakewood Rotary
- Pierce County Mustang Club
- Propeller Club of the United States
- Puget Sound Energy Foundation
- Puyallup Tribe of Indians
- RealNetworks Foundation
- Rochester Area Community Foundation
 - Laing Family Fund
- Rotary Club of Clover Park
- Rotary Club of Lakewood
- Rotary Club of Tacoma North
- Rotary Club of Tacoma #8
- Rotary Club of Tacoma Sunrise
- Russell Family Foundation
- Safeco Insurance Foundation
- The Schoenfeld-Gardner Foundation
- Schwab Charitable Fund
 - Boynton Family Fund
 - Camner Family Fund
 - Steve and Mary Barger Fund
 - Jewson Family fund
 - The Little Family Charitable Fund
 - Grace Nordhoff and Jonathan Beard Fund
 - Scherer Family Charitable Fund
 - Joseph and Kathryn Scorcio Fund
 - Webster Family Fund
- Seattle Foundation
 - Evergreen Home Loans
- Silicon Valley Community Foundation
 - Winograd Family Fund
- Stewardship Foundation
- Suskin Charitable Foundation Trust
- Tacoma Garden Club
- Tacoma Jewish Community Fund
- The Titus Will Families Foundation
- Transportation Club of Tacoma
- Ueland Foundation
- United Way of Central Texas
- United Way of King County
- United Way of Pierce County
- Vanguard Charitable Endowment
 - The James Fitz Charitable Fund
 - The Laura and Grant Gardner Charitable Fund
 - The Joe and Sandra Gordon Charitable Fund
 - The Oattie and Clara Ladd Charitable Fund
 - The Sheila Ogburn Charitable Fund
 - The Monica Butler and Peter Phillely Charitable Fund
 - The JP Stillwell Charitable Fund
 - The Marlyce Tingstad Charitable Fund
- The Washington State Council of Firefighters Benevolent Fund
- Wells Fargo Foundation
- Whisper Foundation
- William Kilworth Foundation
- Windermere Foundation
- Woodworth Family Foundation

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 physical or virtual drive at your school, work, church, or community center.

Home Delivery

Volunteer drivers pick up food boxes at EFN on Tuesdays and Fridays and deliver them to families in need that are unable to get to a food pantry. You can be scheduled for deliveries each week or serve as a backup driver.

Other Opportunities

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

2020 Volunteer Achievements

1,038

Total Volunteers

8,216

Total Hours
Volunteered

302,015

Total Pounds of Food
Repacked at the Repack Project



224,580

Total Meals Provided
through 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

Hunger Awareness Month
Virtual and In-Person Events
May 2021

Letter Carriers' Food Drive
May 2021

Hunger Walk & 5K Run
Virtual Event
May 2021

Casino Royale
Stay tuned

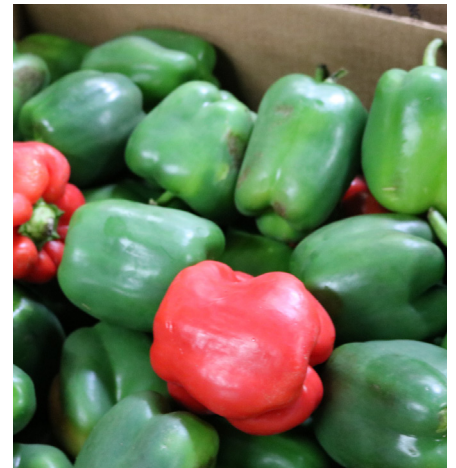
Abundance Dinner & Auction
Saturday, October 23, 2021

Empty Bowls
Saturday, November 20, 2021

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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