



# Sustenance

## 2022 Annual Report



# Thank You From Our Leaders

On behalf of the Board of Directors and staff at Emergency Food Network, we thank you for supporting EFN through another busy year. These past two pandemic years have been difficult for all of us, and your generosity serves as a reminder that incredible things are possible when our community works together to face a challenge.

EFN continues to address food insecurity in our community by using tried and true programs while also trying new approaches that meet our community's current challenges. Some reasons to celebrate in 2021:

- Our Home Delivery Program continues to grow! When we started making deliveries in May of 2020, we weren't quite sure what the long-term plan for the program looked like, we just knew there was an immediate need for more food delivery. The Home Delivery Program is now managed by a staff member and AmeriCorps member who helped over 600 families get deliveries of staple food, produce, meat, dairy, and personal care items in 2021.
- We partnered with Harvest Against Hunger and the Washington State Department of Agriculture to purchase fresh produce from local farmers. We feel incredibly fortunate every time we receive a delivery of beautiful produce for our neighbors in need, and we know that supporting local farmers supports our local economy. We have always said that people who visit food pantries deserve the same beautiful and nutritious foods that we choose to buy for our own families. This partnership helps make that vision a reality.
- Our Co-op Food Purchasing Program provided the community with 1.8 million pounds of purchased food in 2021 – that's an increase of 1.2 million pounds from 2019! Thanks to increased support from funders, we purchased a wider variety of foods, including peanut butter, ground beef, canned tuna, and culturally specific foods like coconut milk and canned black beans. We've purchased co-op food for over a decade, and these past two years have proven how important this program is for keeping food pantry shelves stocked as food donations fluctuate.

Though we saw slight reductions in food pantry visits during 2021, food insecurity rates remain elevated throughout the country. We know that this pandemic and the resulting need are not over yet, but we remain hopeful for better days to come. Thank you for working alongside us in 2021. We could not do this work without you!

With gratitude,

 Michelle Douglas  
Chief Executive Officer

 Mark Winter  
Board of Directors, Chair



# 2022 Leadership

## Board of Directors

### Chair

Mark Winter

### Vice Chair

Doug Baxter-Jenkins

### Secretary

Ingrid Grouley Mungia

### Treasurer

Brianne Tyler

### Members

Julie Boyd

Andrea Davis Tull

Eric Gilman

Kevin Healey

Julie Jordan-Walsh

Pete Lantz

Chad Maiuri

Alice Phillips

Sharon Snuffin

## Ambassador Board

### Members

Jeremy Baxter-Jenkins

Rhys Cooper

Lola Elford

Daniel McCaffrey

Barbara Perry

## Statement on Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion:

“At EFN we recognize and embrace the ever-changing needs of our community and are actively trying to better identify and meet those needs by ensuring equity, diversity, and inclusion in our staff, board, and partners.”

**The mission of Emergency Food Network is “to provide Pierce County with a consistent, diverse and nutritious food supply so that no person goes hungry.”**



# Who We Serve



## We Love Steilacoom Association

We Love Steilacoom Association (WLSA) has been distributing food to our neighbors in need since November 3, 1993. The food pantry is one hundred percent volunteer-run and operated. In addition to the pantry, WLSA operates a home delivery service, along with a food backpack program, providing extra support over the weekend to students who rely on school lunches.

Notably, WLSA's Food Pantry has maintained a self-select model while honoring COVID safety guidelines. During a typical visit, guests sign in with their name and family size and select bakery and grocery items in the lobby. Guests then move into the grocery area, where they place their selection of nonperishables, dairy, meat, and other foods in a shopping cart. By the time they drive away, guests depart with a week's supply of nutritious groceries.

Annually, the pantry serves 5,145 families, representing 18,182 individuals. Behind the scenes, volunteers coordinate donations and purchase food. They also sort food, coordinate volunteer work, and pack home delivery bags. WLSA has partnered with EFN since 1998, with EFN contributing up to 75 percent of the food distributed.

## Feedback from EFN's Partner Programs

"EFN has always been a big help to our food bank. We couldn't provide the volume and variety of food if it wasn't for them."

– Bread of Life

"Everything I have seen from EFN indicates that as an organization they rose to the challenges over the last two years. EFN staff has been supportive, prompt, and organized. You are tremendously appreciated!"

– Food Backpacks for Kids

**75+**  
**Partner**  
**Programs in**  
**Pierce County**





## EFN's Home Delivery Program

For EFN's Home Delivery Program, 2021 meant celebrating successes and seizing new opportunities for growth. Instead of focusing solely on high-risk and quarantined individuals, we expanded our service to all community members who face barriers to accessing their local food pantries—barriers often include limited mobility, limited transportation, or prohibitive work schedules, especially for parents of young children. We served over 630 families and completed over 10,000 deliveries throughout Pierce County. Our crew of 66 volunteers made all this possible with their collective service of over 2,700 hours, and they delivered 677,000 pounds of food! Other major milestones included implementing routing software to increase our drivers' efficiency, receiving nutritious produce from local farmers through the Farm to Food Pantry program, adding a full-time staff member to the team, and celebrating the program's first full year of service.

## Food Pantry Guest Stories

"This has been really helpful, and the volunteer who delivers is just awesome. It was really great to receive those fresh vegetables, and I really enjoyed having the chicken for Thanksgiving.

Before I signed up for the program, I was having trouble with having enough to eat. The produce you deliver has a lot of variety—I think I got beets last time, and they're so good for you! And I really needed those hygiene items that you delivered, the soap and shampoo and other things. Thank you and the volunteer so much. It really helps."

– EFN Home Delivery Recipient

# 677,000

**Pounds of Food Distributed  
through Home Delivery**

# 630

**Families Served  
Directly in 2021**



# 66

**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, 49.5% of students receive free and reduced-cost lunches. The Break Bag Program began in 2014 in partnership with St. Leo Food Connection. Despite increased food costs and limited volunteers, we were able to distribute 6,000 bags in 2021.

When they take home a Break Bag, each student receives 18-20 pounds of easy-to prep and kid-friendly food, such as canned vegetables and lean proteins, rice, peanut butter, and macaroni and cheese. When students receive a Break Bag, they can focus on enjoying their vacation from school, not hunger pains, and return to the classroom ready to learn.



## Mother Earth Farm

Mother Earth Farm, EFN's 8-acre farm in the Puyallup Valley, sets us apart from many emergency food distributors. Our dedicated community of staff, interns, AmeriCorps members, and 300+ volunteers together keep our farm thriving. Their combined efforts in 2021 resulted in 86,000 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 community members within 48 hours of harvest. At EFN, we believe that food not only nourishes the body, but also nourishes the mind and spirit. Mother Earth Farm allows us to grow diverse produce so that families of all backgrounds can meet their nutritional needs and cook meals that are familiar and comforting.

**86,000**  
**Pounds of Produce**  
**Grown & Harvested**  
**at EFN's Mother**  
**Earth Farm**

# 15.5 Million

## Pounds of Food Distributed in 2021

**Donated\***  
9,006,025  
59%

**Pass Through  
and Non-Food**  
275,330 lbs  
2%

**Government**  
4,448,202  
28%

**Co-op**  
1,809,499 lbs  
11%

### 2021 Food Distribution

\*Includes  
86,000  
pounds of  
produce  
from Mother  
Earth Farm



# 1.4 Million

## People Served through Partner Programs in Pierce County in 2021

## General Distribution

Food insecurity continues to be a persistent challenge for many families in Pierce County. We distributed 15,539,726 pounds of food in 2021. The majority of that food comes as a donation from our cherished community partners. EFN receives food from the government, farmers, grocery stores, food drives, and individuals. Our warehouse space allows us to accept donations by the truckload and distribute them out to our 75+ Partner Programs, who would not have capacity to accept such large donations.

By leveraging donated, purchased, government food and food grown at Mother Earth Farm, we distribute five meals for just \$1.





## North 40 Building

EFN expanded our Lakewood campus this year with the construction of our North 40 building. The construction was made possible through a WSDA capacity grant, which allowed EFN to purchase a modular structure and place it on existing EFN property.

This additional office space allows staff to work and meet together safely, supporting EFN's continued growth. EFN's staff grew during the COVID-19 pandemic to keep pace with the growing community need, resulting in insufficient office space for the team to return to after 16 months of remote work. With this new building, EFN creates a safeguard for future growth, giving us the capacity to increase staffing when necessary to achieve our mission and ensure that no person goes hungry. Not only can our entire staff now gather in one place, but we can also provide training for the staff and volunteers of our 75+ partner programs, invite in community groups, and bring our neighbors together.

## Co-op Program

EFN's Co-op Food Purchasing Program allows us to stretch every dollar by purchasing staple foods in bulk, which aids in maintaining our Partner Programs' supply of nutritious food. In 2021, we distributed 1,806,894 pounds of Co-op food – more than 1.4 million meals! Co-op purchases included lean proteins like chicken and tuna, pasta, canned fruits, coconut milk, and peanut butter. Food from the program supplements donated food and produce from our Mother Earth Farm, enabling food pantry guests to prepare nutritious, familiar meals.

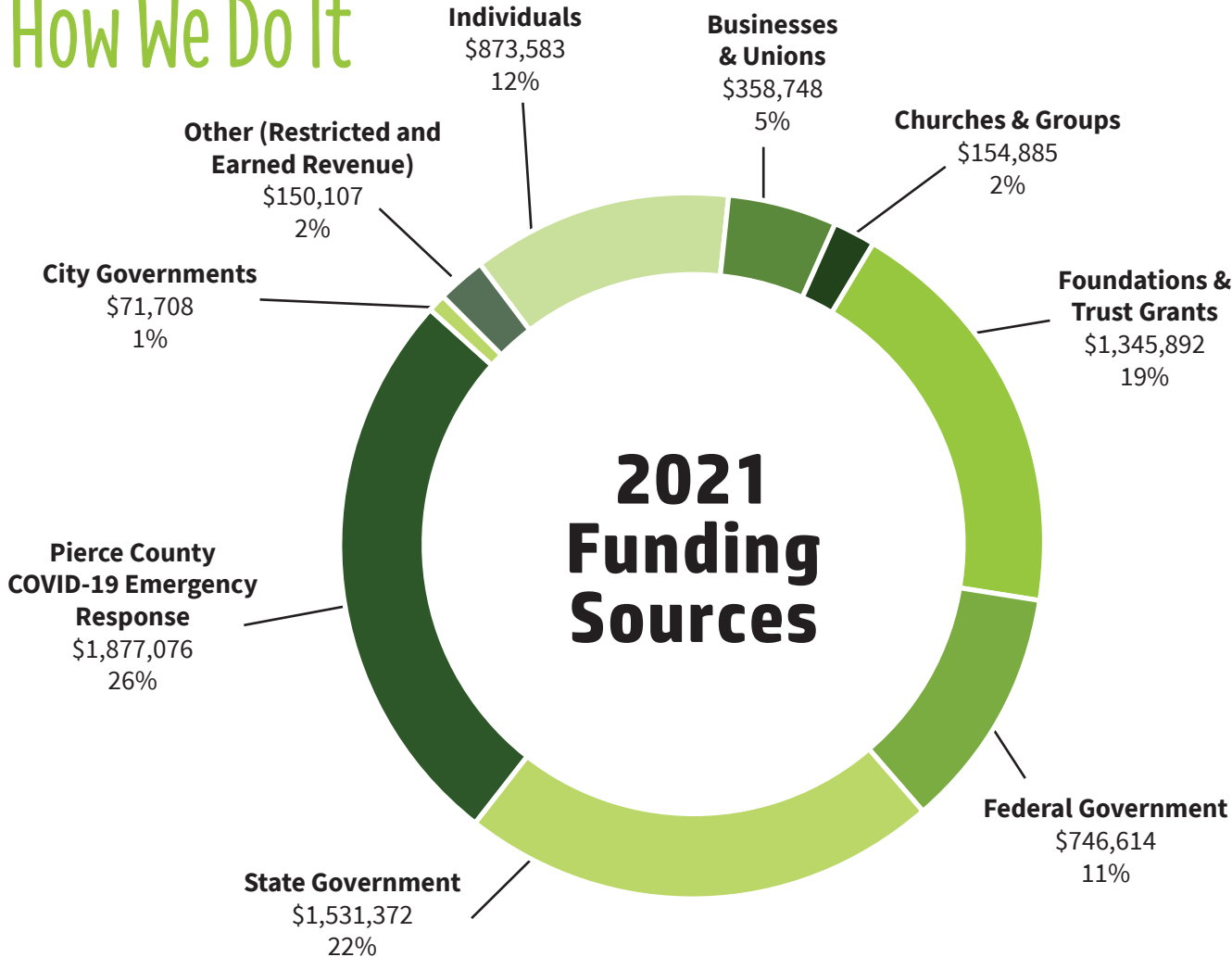
## Community Garden

Our community garden's third year was a great success, providing starter plants and ready-to-eat veggies to our neighbors near our Lakewood campus! As part of our Grow Your Food program, launched in our Community Garden and other sites across the county, we distributed over 10,000 vegetable starts from Mother Earth Farm! In late spring and early summer, neighbors gathered twice a week, eager to see the fresh food available—especially popular vegetables included tomatoes, cucumbers, squash, and tomatillos.





# How We Do It



# \$7.1 Million

## Total Revenue in 2021

# Thank You

**Thank you to all the generous donors who made gifts in 2021!**

Full financials are available on our website [efoodnet.org](http://efoodnet.org).

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



# How You Can Help



## Volunteer

### Repack Project (Lakewood)

Help prepare bulk foods for distribution to food pantries by repackaging the product into smaller, family-sized portions. Bulk foods may include rice, pasta, oats, fruits, vegetables, and more!

### Mother Earth Farm (Puyallup)

Plant seeds, weed, and harvest at our 8-acre organic farm. All skills and ages are welcome at the farm!

### Home Delivery Program

Pick up, drive, and deliver boxes full of fresh, nutritious food from EFN's Distribution Center in Lakewood to homes all over Pierce County.

### Food & Fund Drives

Raise awareness of hunger in the community while collecting donations to keep food pantry shelves stocked throughout the year.

### Partner Opportunities

Volunteer at your local food pantry to make a direct impact on hunger.

## 2021 Volunteer Achievements

1,383

Total Volunteers

8,667

Total Hours  
Volunteered

635,228

Total Pounds of Food  
Repacked at the Repack Project



437,258

Total Meals Provided  
through Food Drives

**Register to volunteer today!**

Contact us at (253) 584-1040 or  
[volunteer@efoodnet.org](mailto:volunteer@efoodnet.org)

View volunteer opportunities on our website:  
[efoodnet.org](http://efoodnet.org)



## Donate

### Give Funds

EFN provides five meals to our neighbors in need for just \$1. Make your donation today online at [efoodnet.org](http://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. EFN has partnered with FreeWill to provide our supporters with a free, online will-writing tool to help you plan ahead, available on our website.

**See all the ways you can contribute by visiting our website: [efoodnet.org](http://efoodnet.org)**

## Events

### Hunger Awareness Month

May 2022

### Hunger Walk

Saturday, May 7th, 2022. Virtual event to follow for rest of May.

### Letter Carriers' Food Drive

Saturday, May 14, 2022

### Abundance Dinner & Auction

Saturday, October 22, 2022

### Empty Bowls

Saturday, November 19, 2022

**Read more about EFN's events and register at: [efoodnet.org](http://efoodnet.org)**

## Social Media

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



**Are you signed up for EFN emails?**

Visit our website to sign up and receive EFN's monthly newsletter "The Feed", calls to action, and more!





**OF TACOMA AND PIERCE COUNTY**

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