



FOOD BANKS OF PIERCE COUNTY

Food and Fund Drive Kit

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About FISH Food Banks of Pierce County

- FISH (Friends in Service to Him) Food Banks of Pierce County is an ecumenical organization of volunteers whose mission is providing food to people in need with compassion, dignity and respect. As the county's oldest and largest food bank organization, FISH Food Banks has been providing nutritious food to individuals and families since 1977. No one needing assistance is turned away.
- Our eight food bank locations serve nearly 40,000 individuals each month, aiming to provide each client with the basic ingredients to make three nutritious meals a day for three days.
- More than 650 volunteers help to operate the food banks, pick up donated food, and deliver food to individuals needing extra assistance. In 2010 their 85,000+ volunteer hours provided the equivalent of nearly 41 full-time staff.
- In 2010, FISH Food Banks served more than 364,000 Pierce County residents, a 16% increase over 2009.
- Because many food bank clients need more than food, in 2009 FISH Food Banks became the only food bank organization in the county to offer extended services, through a "Connection Center" partnership with South Sound Outreach Services (SSOS). By making an SSOS outreach specialist available onsite in our larger food banks, we now offer clients a single point of access for dozens of community resources, government subsidies, medical and housing options.
- For every \$1.00 donated, FISH is able to distribute \$7.00 worth of food.

Organizing Your Food Drive: Step-by-Step

BEFORE THE DRIVE

Organize Your Team

- Gather a planning committee and delegate responsibilities:
- Chairperson is responsible for overall organization and is the contact person for FISH Food Banks.
- Other team members may include: a public relations coordinator to coordinate publicity, an administrator to organize the physical collection of donations, and volunteers to brainstorm ideas for themes, promotion, etc.

Establish Basics

- Set a goal. How many potential contributors do you have? Decide whether you will collect food, funds, or both. (For every dollar donated, FISH Food Banks can provide seven dollars worth of food.)
- Set a beginning and end date for your drive.
- Schedule your drive with FISH Food Banks. We can provide collection bins if you need them, and arrange to pick-up the donated food. Contact FISH at 253-383-3164 or info@fishfoodbanks.org.

Prepare and Promote Your Drive

- Make it fun! People are generous and willing to help. Be creative in asking for their donations and they will amaze you! Promotional materials will help build awareness about your efforts, and encourage maximum participation. Contests for designing posters and flyers can be a good way to tap into the creativity available in your organization.
- Include information about the drive in memos, email announcements, company newsletters and calendars.
- Get management involved. Encourage managers to show their support via email or letters. Ask whether your company can match employee donations.
- Place your collection bins or boxes in convenient and visible areas. Arrange to store them during the food drive.
- Encourage financial contributions: For every dollar donated, FISH can provide seven dollars worth of food.
- Consider holding a Hunger Awareness Day to kick off your food drive. Contact FISH if you are interested in having a guest speaker to talk about hunger in Pierce County.

DURING THE DRIVE

Provide Updates

- Keep participants updated on the amount of food and funds collected.
- Use a sign or “thermometer” in a high-traffic area, announcements in meetings and newsletters, or email to provide continuing awareness throughout your food drive.

Continue Promoting Your Food Drive

- Include special theme days (Meat Monday, Tuna Tuesday, etc.) to keep people aware and engaged throughout the drive.
- Commemorate fun anniversaries during your food drive. For example, did you know that March 7 is National Cereal Day, or that November is National Peanut Butter Lover’s month?

AFTER THE DRIVE

Compile the Results

- Contact FISH Food Banks at 253-383-3164 to make arrangements for pick-up, or you may choose to deliver the food yourself to the nearest FISH Food Bank.
- Collect any monetary contributions and make all checks payable to FISH Food Banks.

Show Your Appreciation

- Share the results with all participants.
- Recognize your committee and volunteers for their hard work.
- Thank the participants and honor the winners of any competitions.
- Jot down any good ideas for your next food drive.
- Celebrate your great work!

Promoting Your Food Drive

Encourage Friendly Competition

- Competition gets people energized and helps them remember to donate. Promote competition among departments, classrooms, teams or work groups.
- Via your workplace's e-mail system or public address system, distribute a hunger fact for each day of the drive. Quiz people at random and hand out little prizes to people who remember the facts.

Be Creative

- Let your imagination run wild! You may come up with a theme that can help generate excitement and aid in creating promotional materials. Offering incentives for donations or the opportunity to win great prizes is also helpful.
- Make posters about the food drive and display them throughout your location. List most needed food items, or share facts about hunger.
- Create a giant thermometer or other visual to measure progress toward your goal.
- Distribute grocery bags to participants with a flyer listing FISH Food Banks' most-needed items and information about your food drive. There is a general food drive flyer included with this kit; we can also provide you with a custom flyer for your food drive, along with brochures and fact sheets about FISH Food Banks.
- Consider arranging for a group of employees to volunteer at the nearest FISH Food Bank or to deliver the food collected, so that they can see FISH in action. Remember that the food you collect goes to the nearest FISH Food Bank, so you are truly helping your immediate neighbors.
- Have a "Lunch Money" day. Ask everyone to brown-bag it for lunch and contribute what they would have spent going out to lunch.

Encourage Donations of Critically Needed Items and Funds

- Encourage donations of those items most needed at FISH Food Banks.
- Remember that non-food items are also needed: food stamps cannot be used to purchase such essential items as paper goods, personal care products and household supplies.
- Food and funds are both important. The food that we collect from food drives helps us to provide a nutritionally balanced food supply. The funds that we receive help us get critically needed food to families in need. For every dollar we receive, we can distribute seven dollars worth of food.

NOTE: FISH Food Banks is unable to accept glass containers, rusty or unlabeled cans, perishable items, alcoholic beverages or mixes, opened or used items, home-canned and home-made items.

Did you know . . .

- that one in five Washington families is dealing with hunger and fear of not being able to feed their children?
- that more than a quarter of Washington residents are getting by on a low income* and are barely able to pay their regular bills?
- that FISH Food Banks experienced a 55% increase in clients from 2008 through 2010?
- that FISH Food Banks now serves nearly 40,000 Pierce County residents each month?
- that 53 percent of those seeking emergency food are children and seniors?*
- that almost half of those households seeking emergency food are families with at least one adult working?

* Households living below 200% of the federal poverty line.

** 39% are children under 18, 14% are individuals over 55

Hunger hurts us all.

- Hunger severely impacts children in a crucial growth stage, decreasing brain development, hindering student performance and behavior, and increasing health problems?
- Hunger makes adults less productive. It can lead to absences from work and poor job performance.
- Hunger can be prevented.
- Hunger is an income problem. People are hungry because they don't make enough to cover basic living costs.
- The high cost of housing, health care, childcare and fuel make it difficult for low-income individuals and families to have enough money to pay for food.

Schedule Your Food & Fund Drive

Complete this form and mail or fax to FISH Food Banks of Pierce County.

FISH Food Banks of Pierce County
621 Tacoma Avenue S, Suite 202
Tacoma, WA 98402
Phone: 253-383-3164
Fax: 253-383-0964

SPONSORING ORGANIZATION

Organization Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Contact Name: _____ Email: _____

Daytime Phone: _____ Evening Phone: _____

Event Name: _____

Event Start Date: _____ Event End Date: _____

Number of Participants: _____

Organization Operating Hours: _____

SUPPLIES

Number of Boxes/Barrels Needed: _____ Number of Posters Needed: _____

Address of Food/Fund Drive: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

What date do you need supplies at your drive location? _____

Will you need the food picked up at the end of your drive? _____

If so, when and where do you need the pick-up? _____

What is your goal for donations? _____

Notes/Special Instructions: _____

FOOD DRIVE

to benefit



**Food Banks of
Pierce County**

When: _____

Where: _____

Food Items

(Please, canned or plastic containers only!)

- Beef Chili or Stew
- Diced Tomatoes, Green Beans, Corn
- Cereal
- Tuna
- Vegetable, Chicken Noodle or Tomato Soup
- Peanut Butter
- Fruit Cocktail, Peaches, Pears
- Pork and Beans
- Spaghetti
- Mac & Cheese
- Baby Food

Non-Food Items

- Toothpaste
- Soap
- Shampoo
- Laundry Detergent
- Diapers
- Toilet Paper
- Feminine Hygiene Products
- Toothbrushes
- Combs and hair brushes

Financial contributions can be sent to:

FISH Food Banks, 621 Tacoma Ave. S, Suite 202, Tacoma, WA 98402

or donate online at www.fishfoodbanks.org.

Every dollar donated provides seven dollars worth of food.

Thank you for your support

in the fight against hunger in our community!

FISH Food Banks Locations

Bread Box FISH

Tacoma Christian Fellowship Church
5010 South G Street
Tacoma, 98409
Mon 5:00-7:00 p.m.

Edgewood Community FISH*

Mountain View Lutheran Church
3505 122nd Ave E
Edgewood, 98372
Thurs 3:30-6:30 p.m., Sat 11:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

Graham/South Hill FISH*

Holy Disciples Catholic Church
10425 187th St E
Puyallup, 98374
Mon/Fri 10:00 a.m.-1:30 p.m., Wed 2:00-6:00 p.m.

Jackson Street FISH

St. Andrews Episcopal Church
7410 South 12th
Tacoma, 98465
Last Wed 5:00-7:00 p.m.

Key Peninsula FISH

Key Peninsula Lutheran Church
4213 Lackey Rd. KPN
Lakebay, 98349
Tues/Thurs/Sat 2:00-3:00 p.m.

Lakes Area FISH*

United Methodist Church at Lakewood
6900 Steilacoom Blvd SW
Lakewood, 98499
Mon 2:00-6:00 p.m., Wed/Fri 1:00-5:00 p.m.

NW Tacoma FISH

Mason United Methodist Church
2710 N Madison
Tacoma, 98407
Wed 12:00-4:00 p.m., Sat 11:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

SE Tacoma*

Lutheran Church of Christ the King
1704 East 85th
Tacoma, 98445
Mon 11:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., Wed 11:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m., Fri 11:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.
Clothing Bank: Tues/Thurs 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m., Wed 2:00-6:00 p.m.

*Connection Center location: In the Connection Centers, an SSOS outreach specialist is available onsite during food bank hours to offer clients a single point of entry for dozens of community resources, government subsidies, medical and housing options, allowing them to access food and other resources from a single location.