



Your IMPACT

Grandparents who once hunted and canned salmon, a daughter working two jobs, and kids who dream of being teachers, all united by the need to know where their next meal will come from.

2025 FALL NEWSLETTER

FOOD BANK of ALASKA



This is Hunger Season

What We Do When the Need Won't Wait

When school doors close, thousands of children lose access to regular meals. Grocery bills climb, seasonal jobs remain uncertain, and supports like SNAP continue to fluctuate. At Food Bank of Alaska, we do more than respond. We prepare. We scale. We lead so Alaskans have food when the need cannot wait.

This past year tested us in new ways, but it also marked some of our strongest progress. Meals to You, which delivers boxes of food directly to children's homes during the summer, now reaches 31 school districts and is on track to deliver **1 MILLION MEALS** to children this summer. What began as a pilot has become a proven lifeline for rural families, thanks to the steadfast support of Senator Lisa Murkowski, USDA, the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development (DEED), and Baylor University.

We accomplished this because of people like you. Donors, volunteers, and partners gave us the strength to act quickly and responsibly. Every decision was guided by one priority: meeting the need for Alaskans.

As we look ahead, our vision is simple: to keep our community fed.

That work continues by strengthening our network, expanding innovative programs, and advancing policies that protect families. Hunger is persistent, but so is our commitment to building a hunger-free Alaska.

Cara Durr
Chief Executive Officer



VOLUNTEER. DONATE. ADVOCATE.

Beyond summer meals, the need was immense. Volunteers gave thousands of hours to keep food moving. A community fundraiser with Carrs/Safeway and the Seattle Seahawks provided 24,000 meals for families. And through advocacy, SNAP remained a vital lifeline for nearly 70,000 Alaskans.

 **Become a monthly donor.** Be part of the response and keep our community fed at foodbankofalaska.org/donate.

OUR MISSION: Food Bank of Alaska is dedicated to eliminating hunger in Alaska by obtaining and providing food to partner agencies feeding hungry people and through anti-hunger leadership. We believe that no one deserves to be hungry.

NOURISHING COMMUNITIES

Special thanks to our in-kind donors whose food and freight support helps keep Alaskans nourished. The partners listed here are just a few of the many organizations who make this work possible.

TRANSPORTATION PARTNERS



FOOD DONORS



Partners



WHO MOVE US

Our transportation partners don't just move freight; they move Alaskan families closer to food security.

In a state where shipping costs can mean the difference between an empty table and a holiday meal, the in-kind support we receive from transportation partners like Matson, TOTE Maritime Alaska and other community leaders is critical to our ability to carry out the work that we do.

In FY25, donated freight brought more than **2 million pounds** of food into the State of Alaska. Matson's work alone has been directly responsible for much of the food transported for our annual Thanksgiving Blessing (celebrating its 20th year in 2024) and this year their team also stepped forward to support the execution of a \$1.5 million state grant to distribute food to partner agencies across Alaska.

"Matson has a long-standing commitment to support the communities we serve. Our cash donations and in-kind shipments for the Food Bank of Alaska help reduce food insecurity across the state."

— Vic Angoco, Senior Vice President, Matson Alaska

TOTE Maritime Alaska's consistent support is similarly critical in helping to ensure that the food we purchase, and the generously donated product from in-kind partners like the **Church of Jesus Christ Latter-day Saints** and others, keeps food flowing into the State. In the last mile, the aid of partners like **Lynden** and **Weaver Brothers** helps ensure food continues to flow into the pantries of Food Bank of Alaska agency partners across Alaska.

Our transportation partners play a critical role in Alaska's anti-hunger network, and we could not move forward without their leadership.

BOARD & EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP

BOARD: Katria Kangas, *President* | Claudia Russell, *Treasurer* | Katie Pesznecker, *Secretary* | Milena Seigny, *Past President* | Nikki Brayboy | Jennifer Coughlin | Amy DeBruhl | Astrit Iljazi | Tani Kron Marci McGill | Elizabeth Nobmann | Walter Pickett | Joe Rybak | Lisa Simmons
LEADERSHIP: Cara Durr, *Chief Executive Officer* | Daniel Bentle, *Chief Philanthropy Officer* | Frank Kelly, *Chief Operating Officer* | Rachael Miller, *Chief Advocacy Officer* | Anthony Reinert, *Chief Programs Officer* | Barb Seibel, *Chief Financial Officer*

POLICY IN ACTION

SNAP: What's at Stake for Alaska

SNAP is more than just food assistance for families, it is our most effective anti-hunger program. Nearly 70,000 Alaskans rely on SNAP to put food on the table, and every \$1 in benefits generates more than \$1.50 in local economic activity.

Unfortunately, recent federal legislation, known as the Big Beautiful Bill, cut \$187B in federal funding for SNAP over the next ten years and increased the red tape to access this program. Food pantries are already at capacity, and now they're seeing longer lines, higher demand, and greater strain on volunteers and donated supplies. No food bank can fill that gap alone.

Food Bank of Alaska is working to protect and strengthen SNAP through advocacy, coalition building, and public education. We are helping Alaskans understand what changes mean for them and amplifying voices from communities most affected.

These recent cuts to SNAP will impact everyone, but there are specific changes to SNAP accessibility for refugees and asylees, former foster youth, veterans, seniors, parents and caregivers, and seasonal workers. Food Bank of Alaska stands with our neighbors and will continue advocacy to support programs that help people help themselves and our communities.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Stay informed. Follow updates on SNAP in Alaska.

Advocate. Tell elected officials how important SNAP is to you.

Support locally. Donate, volunteer, and stand with the Alaskans who rely on this program.



"During the winter off-season, SNAP is what keeps food in our house. Without it, I don't know how we'd make it through until fishing starts again."

— Meg Erickson, seasonal worker, Kodiak



Photo credit: Alaska Farmer's Market Association

Food Is MEDICINE

This fall, Food Bank of Alaska, in partnership with the Alaska Department of Health, is launching a Food is Medicine program.

The initiative includes an assessment of existing nutrition incentive programs and publicly available reports, the formation of a coalition, and pilot projects to get more food to more people to improve health.

The Food is Medicine goal is simple but powerful:

- Reduce the difficult trade-offs families face
- Improve long-term health outcomes
- Show that good food can lead to good health

As the program grows, Food is Medicine has the potential to improve individual lives and the health of entire communities.

Learn more about Food is Medicine at:

foodbankofalaska.org.



**FOOD BANK
of ALASKA**

2192 Viking Dr
Anchorage, AK 99501

foodbankofalaska.org
907-272-FOOD



Food Bank of Alaska is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. EIN: 92-0073175. This organization is an equal opportunity provider.

NON PROFIT
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit #106
Anchorage, AK



SEPTEMBER IS
**Hunger
Action
Month**

OCTOBER



DINE OUT
AGAINST HUNGER
October 20-26

NOVEMBER

Thanksgiving Events
Mat-Su Blessing
November 22
Anchorage Blessing
November 24

Stay up to date
on news and events
by subscribing to our
e-newsletter



THANK YOU for Narrowing the Summer Meal Gap

Summer in Alaska should be a season of long days, fishing trips, and kids playing outside until the sun finally sets. But when school cafeterias close, thousands of children lose access to the meals they count on during the school year. For too many families, that means added pressure to stretch already thin grocery budgets.

Your general support helped to build on **OVER ONE MILLION MEALS** provided to neighbors this summer! From **12 Anchorage Summer Food Service Program sites** to **31 Meals to You school districts**, these meals were more than food on a plate. They gave parents peace of mind, kids the strength to play under the midnight sun, and families the comfort of knowing their community will not face hunger alone.

The need keeps growing. Renew your gift and help close the gap.



\$1 = 4 meals
through October



**FOOD BANK
of ALASKA**

