HOW WE ARE ADAPTING IN THE MIDDLE OF A WORLDWIDE PANDEMIC.

Unlike so many places that have been shut down these past five months, the Food Bank has been busier than ever. It’s been a constant challenge, trying to feed more people with fewer people doing the work. Making it even harder was the scarcity of so many of our normal food supplies, and the need to find a way to do all the work while staying six feet apart and having fewer than 10 people in our building at a time. But thanks to your generous donations, and the hard work of our brave volunteers, we’ve managed to steer safely through all the changes and keep our community fed! Here’s how we’ve done it since we had to close our indoor shopping.

At the end of March, we started doing porch delivery, bringing boxes of food to people’s front doors. Using a team of drivers organized by Monroe’s librarian, Phil Spirito, and including volunteers from Monroe School District, Cascade Community Church, Speedway Chevrolet, and others from our community, 230 families on 37 different routes received weekly food boxes, all packed in our warehouse with food purchased from your donations!

Beginning July 1, we were able to open our outdoor market so our food bank families could once again start making their own choices. Using the parking area on the side of our building, we set up a food bank farmer’s market every week so shoppers can stay outdoors and socially distanced while selecting food for their families. Our stalls are filled with lots of fresh produce from the garden next door along with other generous gardens throughout our community, and with lots of food purchased from your gifts. We hope to continue with this market through the rest of the summer.

And come fall, well, you’ll have to stay tuned! Whatever happens, the one thing we’re sure of is that we will absolutely find a way to feed our community while keeping them and our volunteers safe at the same time.

We are, and always will be, neighbors helping neighbors!
WEEKEND BACKPACKS FOR KIDS IN OUR LOCAL SCHOOLS.

We’ve all been wondering what back to school will look like for our children this fall. While we’re still waiting for all the details, the one thing we know for sure is that children will need food. So, we are putting all of our energy into doing what we do best, feeding people!

Nearly a decade ago, we found out that too many children dependent on school breakfasts and lunches for their daily nutrition were going hungry on the weekends. So, in 2011 we started our weekend emergency food backpack program. Working with Frank Wagner Elementary, every Friday we began sending 14 students home with a backpack filled with nutritious, easy-to-prepare food. The program has grown a lot since then, reaching 101 students at 5 different schools during this past school year… until COVID hit! When schools shut down, more children were going hungry. So, working closely with the Monroe School District, we more than doubled our numbers. 210 students received emergency food every week in April, May, and June! We’ve continued to help through the summer with food pantries at Frank Wagner and Fryelands Elementary Schools.

Now we are gearing up to do it all over again! We know that school will be starting online again this fall. We are committed to keeping those 210 children fed, along with any others who need it. No child should go hungry in our caring community! Won’t you help us make sure this never happens? The specialty food we need to purchase for these backpacks is more expensive than the food we normally buy, and prices are rising due to increased demand as more schools go online. You can help us by making an online donation at www.svfoodbank.org, or mailing us a check to our address on the back page. Working together, we can keep ALL of our children fed and ready to learn, whatever that looks like this year!

DID YOU KNOW?

Because of your help, we were able to feed over two and a half times as many families in the second quarter as we did in the first. Here are our current statistics of how many families we have served so far.

- January - 898
- February - 1065
- March - 976
- April - 2461
- May - 2645
- June - 2685

“Thank you for giving so generously! Your donations have allowed us to purchase nearly twice as much food as we had budgeted for this year.”
INDEX MOBILE FOOD BANK

Our Index Mobile Food Bank continues to deliver during this crisis. It looks a lot different, but the end game is still the same...people are getting the food they need. When the COVID pandemic hit, we had to adjust how we distribute here at the food bank, and our mobile food bank was no different. Index School opened their gym doors and allowed us to store thousands of pounds of food. Why, you might ask? Well, we wanted to make sure the food was there if we ever had to close our food bank due to exposure and or sickness. We simply could not leave this community without food. Instead of our normal shopping model, we turned our distribution into a curbside service. Each week, our Index volunteers come early to assemble boxes. We set our tent and tables on the curb, and families pull up and pop their trunks. Volunteers load them up with nonperishables, fresh produce, dairy items, and frozen meats for a no-contact distribution. It has gone smoothly due to our great team of volunteers. Thank you to Micky, Melissa, Kevin, Lynn, Kim, Lilly, Tavis, Eli, and John, and a special thank you to the Index Community who continues to welcome us each week.

We are incredibly thankful for the Index School for allowing us to store and serve food from their location these last few months. Using their gym allowed us to store 4 weeks of food for 40 families, ensuring that no one in Index went hungry.

We can’t say enough about the people of the Index Community. They truly care about one another. Adam (above) and his fiancé grew extra produce in their home garden, and came to us asking to get it out to the community who needs it. Customers were thrilled!

CONVOY OF HOPE

Earlier this summer, we were one of the eight area food banks chosen to receive food from the Convoy of Hope. Evergreen Speedway welcomed the Convoy of Hope truck which was filled to the brim with nonperishable food. These chosen food banks were allowed to come and help themselves to what they needed. It was a great bounty, and our food bank came back with 4,410 pounds of goods.

Thank you, Evergreen Speedway and Convoy of Hope!
YES, I want to END Hunger!

Enclosed is a tax-deductible donation of:

___ $50
___ $100
___ $250
___ Other_________

Make checks payable to Sky Valley Food Bank and mail to:
PO Box 724, Monroe WA 98272

Donation is from:

Name:___________________________________
Address:_________________________________
City:_____________________________________
State:_________ Zip:_____________________
Phone:_________________________________
Email:_________________________________

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