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Faces of Hope

Ending homelessness one family at a time

A Hand Up for the Hardworking

HUNGER ACTION MONTH BRINGS AWARENESS TO HUNGER CRISIS IN ALASKA

 Marie is a single mom with two daughters struggling to make ends meet through a full-time accounting job. Marie balances the books for a local plumbing and heating contractor, but sometimes struggles to balance expenses with two growing daughters at 9 and 10 years old.

One in five Alaska kids live in homes that face the threat of hunger, an issue that can affect anyone.

Although St. Francis House Food Pantry is open Monday through Thursday every week, Marie can only make it to the pantry on the fourth Wednesday of the month because she works hard all throughout the week.

“We finally found a furnished place to stay with cheaper rent and all utilities included,” Marie says. “Now my daughters


can get their first pet.”

One of the greatest benefits of St. Francis House is client choice. Clients can visit once per month and choose the food their families need and enjoy based on their own preferences and dietary needs.

“I always bring the girls to the pantry. I know they will actually eat it if they pick it out,” Marie says. “One loves green beans and the other loves mac & cheese.”

Our volunteers provide a personal touch in providing hope to the families fighting hunger in Anchorage. Thank you for supporting St. Francis House Food Pantry. Your hardworking dollars go to grateful, hardworking families like Marie’s.

You can take action this Hunger Action Month by supporting St. Francis House Food Pantry.

Just \$50 can purchase 260 pounds of food, providing over 100 meals to families in need. 



PICTURE ABOVE » Marie works full-time to support her 9 and 10-year-old daughters, but we all need help sometimes.

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1 in 5 Alaska kids live in homes that face the threat of hunger

Hunger Action Month

UNITED IN THE FIGHT TO END HUNGER

September is Hunger Action Month, a time to think about food security in our community. **Nearly 1 in 7 Alaskans are food insecure.** Do our friends and neighbors have enough food to feed their family tonight, this month or this year?

St. Francis House Food Pantry is only one part of the food security system—it is partnerships throughout the community and people like you that complete the system and feed hungry families in Anchorage. We are like the grocery store of the food security system with carts and shelves, directly providing food free of charge to the families and individuals experiencing hunger in our community.

As Alaska's largest food pantry, St. Francis House depends on donations from so many donors like you and partners across Anchorage to help offset the costs of providing healthy foods for families in need of support. The Food Bank of Alaska is the largest single supplier and is the shipper, distributor and warehousing arm of the food security system to bring food to hungry families across Alaska. At St. Francis House, we purchase food from the Food Bank of Alaska at 19 cents a pound—just the cost of shipping. Also, during Hunger Action Month in September, all food distributed to St. Francis House from the Food Bank is free of charge.

Fresh produce, meat and bread are possible through strong partnerships with businesses like New



PICTURE ABOVE » People like Mary benefit most when agencies, businesses and volunteers work to end hunger together.

Sagaya, Costco, Northern Sales and Greatland Foods. These partners donate goods directly to St. Francis House that allows us to have a greater variety and fresh food.

The most important part of stocking St. Francis House Food Pantry is you. The community donates food and time to St. Francis House and our clients. The food pantry leverages nearly 6,000 volunteer hours every year. Food drives at churches, businesses and schools around town bring in fresh fruits and vegetables and other items that provide the final piece in having enough food for everyone.

Mary is an Alaskan experiencing a disability facing hunger and receiving support from her

hardworking daughter along with the food pantry.

"I am grateful for what I get, and I'm glad I have a choice. Many foods here are healthy and what I really need," Mary says.

Food from the pantry allows Mary to make ends meet on a fixed income. **This September, please keep families experiencing hunger in your thoughts, prayers and actions.** ☕



Pam's Cause for Compassion

"I LOVE THE PANTRY. I CALL IT MY PANTRY."

The dedication of St. Francis House Food Pantry volunteers like Pam is constant and invaluable to the operation of the pantry. **Pam has donated nearly 3,000 hours to the pantry** through her MASST vocation skills building experience and continued volunteering.

Pam gained professional experience volunteering through MASST, and also gained a sense of purpose. The difference made when a family can offset the costs of groceries to the pantry to keep the power on and ultimately to keep their home is life changing.

"Some people are so grateful and make you feel like you've done something great for them on your own. It's so heart-warming," Pam says.

This September—for Hunger Action Month—we need to raise \$10,000 to keep providing fresh, nutritious food to families who need it most.

In honor of Pam's 3,000 hour contribution, please

consider any amount that works for you to reach this goal. You can make a difference in the lives of Alaskans.

Just \$20 provides a nourishing meal for 9 families who visit our food pantry. ☕



PICTURE ABOVE » Pam began as a MASST volunteer, but now puts in her own time to a cause she's grown to love.

SNAP Reduces Hunger

ESSENTIAL ROLE IN FOOD SECURITY NETWORK

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) is an integral cornerstone of the food security network in Alaska and across the nation. SNAP reduces food insecurity by providing low-income individuals and families who desperately need assistance to purchase food at grocery stores, food outlets and farmers markets.

SNAP is extremely important to the individuals who receive these benefits. **75% of households receiving SNAP benefits include a child, elderly person or person with disabilities.** Over half of the households with children receiving SNAP benefits were working households and used SNAP to supplement their earnings.

SNAP is also great for local economies. All SNAP benefits paid out are federal dollars injected into local economies. Estimates show that for **every \$1 of SNAP benefits spent generates up to \$1.79 in economic activity.** When a national, regional, state, or local economy is in trouble, SNAP is among the most effective government responses.

SNAP relieves pressure on overwhelmed food banks, pantries, congregations, and other emergency food providers in Alaska. It has been linked



PICTURE ABOVE » SNAP benefits lifted 4.6 million Americans out of poverty in 2015.

to rising high school graduation rates, adult earnings, and adult health. SNAP needs to be preserved and protected to remain a strong pillar of Food Security for our most vulnerable neighbors.

Join SNAP Outreach through the Food Bank of Alaska to help ensure that Alaskan families who might be eligible for SNAP have access to this nutrition benefit. ☕



Community Coming Together

Throughout the year, more than 17,000 Alaskans receive food from St. Francis House Food Pantry, and many say the food allowed them to pay a bill that would have otherwise gone unpaid.

We would like to recognize the businesses that make it possible to lend a hand to the people who need it most. Hunger is a major issue in many working families, and your support helps the most vulnerable Alaskans at their most critical time of need.

- Bishop's Attic II in Palmer
- Carr Foundation
- ConocoPhillips Alaska, Inc.
- Costco
- Di'Agostino's
- Holy Family Cathedral
- New Sagaya
- Providence Health & Services Alaska
- St. Anthony's Parish
- St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish
- St. Patrick's Parish
- Walmart Foundation
- Wells Fargo Bank Alaska
- Wendi & Larry Partusch

Ultimately, we couldn't keep St. Francis House Food Pantry running without the volunteering, advocacy and support from Alaskans like you. Thank you. ☺

Upcoming Events



Run To End Homelessness

Saturday, September 23, 7:30AM

Where: 49th State Brewing Co., 717 W. 3rd Ave. 99514

Anchorage Running Club's annual fundraising event to benefit Brother Francis Shelter and Bean's Cafe.

Spirit Of Denali

Wednesday, October 18, 11AM-3PM

Where: Brother Francis Shelter, 1021 E. 3rd Ave. 99501

Celebration of Alaska Native cultures & gathering through food, music and dance for visitors and our guests residing at Brother Francis Shelter.

Thanksgiving Blessing

Monday, November 20, 2PM-9PM

Where: St. Patrick's Parish

Help make sure no one goes without a homemade Thanksgiving dinner this year. Join us at St. Patrick's Parish to give turkey, produce and other Thanksgiving necessities. Sign-up on CSSALASKA.ORG in mid-October to volunteer.

Get involved with Catholic Social Services! For more information on these events or to volunteer, contact Wes Hoskins at whoskins@cssalaska.org or 907-222-7344.



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