

FALL 2021

AT THE TABLE

NEWS FROM THE HUNGER SOLUTION CENTER AT FOOD LIFELINE

**FOOD
LIFELINE**
HUNGER DOESN'T HAVE TO HAPPEN

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Melissa, mother of three, food pantry client

“Food is really expensive now, and it keeps going up, so coming here has helped us substantially.”

“I lost most of my income in the past year, money was really hard. Coming here means I can use what little money there is to pay rent and bills.”

— **Melissa**





THE PATH FORWARD

The chill of fall is in the air, and with it comes exciting change at Food Lifeline. We've spent the last many months developing our new three-year strategic plan and Food Lifeline is engaging in the most **significant and impactful reinvention of our work** to eliminate hunger.

It's clear we must transform ourselves as a hunger relief organization that is not only efficient distributors of huge volumes of food, but one that is also intently focused on mitigating the root causes of hunger.

Our new strategic efforts allow us to do both. We remain deeply committed to meeting the daily nutrition needs of our neighbors facing hunger today, while diligently growing a movement to solve hunger for tomorrow.

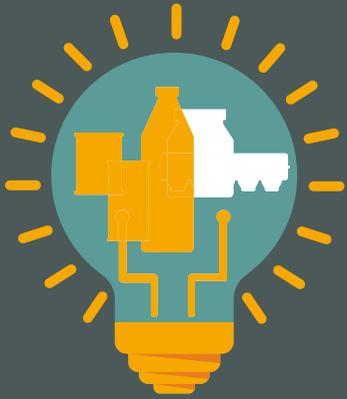
You see, the pandemic revealed an indisputable fact - that hunger does indeed discriminate. The picture is clear, Black, Indigenous, immigrant, refugee, and Communities of Color are impacted by food insecurity at twice the rate of the general population.

The data revealed how the intersections of inequity create greater economic vulnerability for these communities, and the emergence of one more burden - like COVID - can push families already struggling right over the financial cliff. The data highlights that the root causes of hunger, poverty, racial inequity, and social injustice must be addressed if we are going to solve hunger for the future. In the coming months and years, we will lean deeply into this work and we invite you to be part of our movement.

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Linda".

Linda Nageotte
President & CEO



FOOD LIFELINE MISSION

FEEDING PEOPLE FACING HUNGER TODAY, SOLVING HUNGER FOR TOMORROW

The root causes of hunger are complex. Hunger is a symptom of low-income and poverty; racial inequity and social injustice are leading drivers. In hunger relief systems, a common approach has been to try to solve hunger primarily by providing more food. While this is helpful in the short term, it doesn't fix the broken systems that perpetuate the conditions of hunger. Our multi-pronged approach allows us to do both at once.



Our Theory of Change embraces a model that engages people and partners with food resources, financial investments, and data & research, to co-create and invest in programs and activities designed to shift policies and practices at the local, state, and federal level to solve hunger for the long term.



Visit foodlifeline.org/solving-hunger for more info

address down hunger



Each year Food Lifeline recognizes outstanding partners in our effort to end hunger. This year's awardees embody passion, commitment, innovation, and care for their neighbors and community.

Through programs and partnerships, dedicated volunteer time, and financial contributions, create tremendous energy and build momentum toward our goal of ending hunger.

THE INSPIRATION AWARD



The inspiration award recognizes an individual, group, corporation, or foundation for their achievements that encourage others to get involved with Food Lifeline's mission.

2021 INSPIRATION AWARD: US Bank

"The Food Lifeline volunteer staffers are investing their hearts and minds to this job. They feel a mission and a purpose with being here, and we feel the same way about the work that we do. It makes us want to be here and to contribute." Kristy Dickson - Senior VP, US Bank



The US Bank teams have served more than 2,000 hours in our Hunger Solution Center, and they have grown their ranks to more than 100 who give their time regularly.

FOOD LIFELINE IS ON A MISSION TO ROOT OUT HUNGER

Visit foodlifeline.org/dressdownhunger2021 for videos highlighting our award winners.



THE EQUITY CHAMPION AWARD



"We want to be the change today, for our future, for our kids. I think if we do positive things every day for our families, our children will be the lawyers of the future. The doctors of the future." **Rufina Leticia**

The Equity Champion Award recognizes an individual or organization's commitment to ending hunger by working to counter the racist systems, practices, and consequences that perpetuate it.

EQUITY CHAMPION AWARD: **Mutual Aid Solidarity of Skagit**

Rufina Leticia, Coordinator, Mutual Aid/Solidarity of Skagit County – Rufina began Mutual Aid 2 years ago in response to the needs of her community during the COVID-19 pandemic. This year, Food Lifeline funded a grocery gift card program that helped provide food for nearly five hundred families experiencing hunger in her community. These same cards also supported small Latino owned grocery stores who participated in the program. Her team consists only of volunteers.

THE TOM HALEY MEMORIAL AWARD

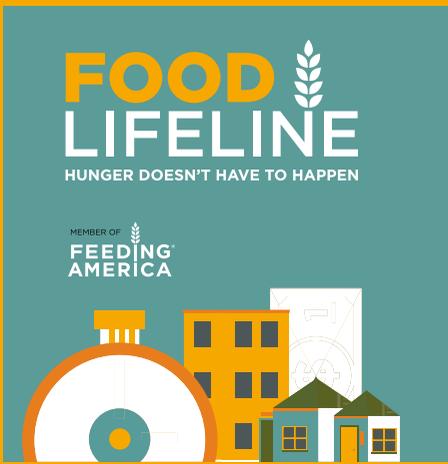
The Tom Haley Memorial award recognizes an individual, group, corporation, or foundation for their dedication to the success of Food Lifeline's mission.

TOM HALEY MEMORIAL AWARD: Raj and Anna Asava

The Asava's founded HungerMitao five years ago to inspire the Indian American community to engage in hunger relief efforts in Seattle and across the country.

"Coming from India, feeding the hungry is one of the basic tenets that we've grown up with. It's part of our DNA. I remember our grandparents, when they sat down to eat a meal, before they would put a handful in their mouth, they would take some out to be given away to someone who is hungry." **Anna Asava**





TAKE ACTION TO END HUNGER



NUTPODS DEVOTES COMPREHENSIVE EFFORT TO END HUNGER.

nutpods - nutpods began working with Food Lifeline in 2018 by volunteering to sort and repack donated food at the Hunger Solution Center. This hands-on volunteerism helped launch a corporate commitment that has grown dramatically in the past three years.

“We have been supporting Food Lifeline with product donations and employee volunteer days early on in our company’s history, even before we had the resources to donate financially”, says nutpods President and CEO, Madeline Haydon, “We believe that it is our responsibility to support our community by improving access to food and fighting food insecurity for our neighbors. Food Lifeline has such a comprehensive network that we naturally were drawn to their organization.”



As their corporate commitment deepened, CEO Madeline Haydon decided to make a personal investment of her time and talent to aid in our hunger relief efforts as a board member.

“Joining the Food Lifeline board was such a personal milestone for me and I’m proud to take on the responsibility. I look forward to lending my voice to support those in need in our community.”

Through collaborations like nutpods, Food Lifeline provided more than 88.1 million pounds of food throughout Western Washington in the past year.

To learn how your company can get involved contact Gabriela Pinto at gabrielap@foodlifeline.org.



DONATE. ADVOCATE. VOLUNTEER.

Visit [foodlifeline.org/newslettergift](https://www.foodlifeline.org/newslettergift) to make a donation now!



COMMUNITY MEMBERS GIVE THEIR TIME, TALENT, & TREASURE TO HELP END HUNGER.

Back in 2010, Berta Nicol-Blades and her friend Jan Kikuchi made their first visit to the Hunger Solution Center. For around “Day of Giving” event, the two pals had chosen Food Lifeline. For four hours they sorted and repacked food that would make its way to food banks across Western Washington. Kikuchi, or “**Kooch**” as her friends liked to call her, was so excited that she told Berta “**We’re going to do this every week!**”.

While the two friends had a plan, it wasn’t to be. Not long after their visit, Kooch passed away.

Berta was heartbroken by the loss of her longtime friend, but decided to follow their plan. Even if she was alone.

“**I thought to myself**”, says Berta, “**What better way to pay tribute to Kooch than to come here and work.**”

For the past ten years, Berta has become the most recognized volunteer at Food Lifeline. Two days a week she staffs Food Lifeline’s “**Shop The Dock**” cooler, a standalone cooler of fresh food that food pantries can add to their online orders.

Her commitment to helping those who are experiencing hunger is not only a tribute to her friend, it’s also a value she holds dear.

“**One of my goals in life has always been to make a difference in the world, and this is one way I can do that. I’m astounded at how much food we send out the door. One month we did 30,000 pounds, the next month it’s 50,000, then 90,000 – it just keeps going up.**”

While Berta cherishes the visits, it’s where the food is going that fills her heart. Knowing that this food will be on the table of someone in the community, is the greatest reward. And even when the schedule is over-booked and it’s a difficult trek to make, Berta shows up to don her apron and get to work, Kooch would be proud.



COUNTIES PRIORITIZED FOR EXPANSION

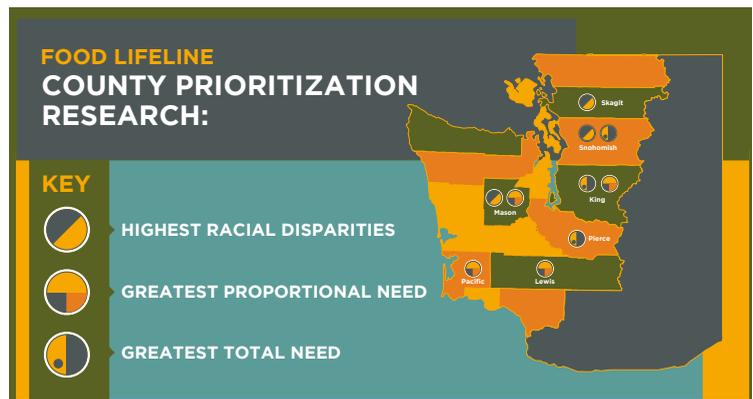


When COVID-19 first took hold across America and the globe, you may have heard that the pandemic doesn't discriminate. That statement was inaccurate, the data confirms the negative impacts of the virus, including increased food insecurity, income loss, and increased likelihood of becoming sick or dying from COVID-19 disproportionately impact Black, Indigenous, and People of Color communities.

Our learning is helping to prioritize investments in those most affected counties for future partnerships, programming, and resources. We partnered with the Emerson Hunger Center to work with Emerson Hunger Fellow, Nancy Chang, to conduct the research.

Three criteria were used and seven priority counties were identified as priorities for future expansion of programs and investments. Counties that are outside of the priority list but within Food Lifeline's service area continue to be supported within our existing resource model and may be deemed a priority for programming, partnerships or resources based on specific program, context, or need.

We will make regular data updates to support informed decision making. **Contact Lisa Galvin, Director of Programs Strategy, at Lisag@FoodLifeline.org, for any questions related to the research.**



Please cut off the reply form below, and return with your gift.

FBF-FLL-19499

DON'T DELAY, TAKE ACTION TO END HUNGER TODAY

I want to help families facing hunger receive the food they need to thrive!

Enclosed is my gift of:

- \$35 to help create 350 meals
- \$100 to help create 1000 meals
- \$50 to help create 500 meals
- Make a donation on-line at foodlifeline.org/newslettergift

NAME: _____
 STREET: _____
 CITY/STATE/ZIP: _____
 MY EMAIL: _____

Food Lifeline, 815 S 96th. St, Seattle WA 98108-4934



I would like to make a one-time donation of \$ _____
 My check is enclosed Charge my bank card

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FROM

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