



# INSPIRED. MOTIVATED. OPTIMISTIC.

Optimistic. That's not a word we use a lot these days, and yet, it perfectly describes the energy and momentum we are experiencing at Food Lifeline despite the ongoing pandemic.

The optimism is fueled by a shift taking place at Food Lifeline – the most significant shift not only in my 23-year tenure at Food Lifeline, but in our 42-year history. As we launch our new three-year strategic plan, Food Lifeline is engaging in a monumental reinvention of our work to end hunger.

Over the years as we've talked about our work, the amount of food we've procured and distributed has been a headline, and in many cases the focus of our conversations.

In this past fiscal year alone, we sourced and distributed 88 MILLION POUNDS of fresh, nutritious food, and shelf-stable pantry goods. That translates into nearly 74 million meals, or more than 282,000 meals distributed each day. That's extraordinary.

Although this is critically important to the work we do, it is in no way a full expression of our mission or the ways in which we have evolved and grown.

The significant growth we've experienced in the past two years has also reinforced the critical importance of our unrelenting commitment to ending hunger for our neighbors in Western Washington.

As we continue to anchor our mission and our strategic planning process, we've identified guiding principles to help shape and inform all our efforts moving forward. We are inviting our community of stakeholders to join us in investing in community-based hunger solutions; increasing access to nutritious, traditional, culturally relevant food desired by the diverse communities we serve; and fostering and igniting the political will to build the movement to end hunger.

This is an exciting time for all of us and our work has never been more relevant. We are so grateful to stand alongside you as we fulfill our mission to feed people today, while solving hunger for tomorrow.

With kindest regards,

**Linda Nageotte,**  
President & CEO



# INVESTING IN COMMUNITY LED HUNGER SOLUTIONS

At Food Lifeline, we believe that people who have experienced or are currently living with food insecurity are truly the experts in what it takes to solve hunger. Yet food assistance programs are often created without the input of those with lived experience. We know all our work is made stronger by working in partnership with community organizations and by listening to people who daily face hunger. Hunger and its root causes – poverty, racial inequity, and social injustice – are too big for any one person or organization to solve, but working together, we can make incredible change happen.

Through grant-funded research, we know that seven counties within our 17-county service area, have the highest levels of racial disparity and disproportionate levels of food insecurity. We're building a network of local Food Access Specialists in these counties to work alongside existing and emerging programs to help co-create and invest in community-led food assistance programs, often bundled with other programs and services.

To support these community inspired efforts, Food Lifeline has also established a Community Food Sovereignty Fund. This grant funding will help seed and support the programs and projects designed to advance economic stability and mobility, promote equity, and shift power to local communities around food production, distribution, and consumption, while meeting unique community needs.

Local solutions are as diverse as the communities they serve, including community gardens, permaculture landscaping at farmworker housing, grocery gift card programs, assistance with salmon and halibut procurement for tribal distribution, stipends for food pantries, sourcing and purchasing traditional and culturally desired foods, and contracting with Black, Indigenous, People of Color owned farms and businesses.

*“Food Lifeline wants to hear from the community, they want to be close with the community, to find out what they need. And we were part of that work. We feel proud to be there,” says Rufina, “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...We don’t want charity, we want to be able to empower.”*

— Rufina Jimenez, Coordinator, Mutual Aid/Solidarity of Skagit County



*“We do a lot of emergency management, and food just happens to fall under it, and right now it’s taking centerstage. Being able to pick up at Food Lifeline saves me a ton of time. I was working seven days a week, chasing food at different locations. So coming to Food Lifeline, I can pick up the product, sort it, put it on my truck, and get it to the people by five o’clock at night. Boom.”*

— Brenda Jallits, Executive Director, A Common Thread

# INCREASING ACCESS TO CULTURALLY DESIRED FOODS

Western Washington is home to thriving, diverse, communities. Through our network of 350 food pantries, meal programs, and shelters, we are working to better understand our agencies needs to truly source the right foods. It's not enough to simply deliver food. We want to get the right foods to the right communities. In addition to pantry staples, we are diversifying our food streams, from growers, to food donor partners, and in purchases we make.

By securing and distributing these traditional and culturally desired foods, we are recognizing the dignity and diversity of our clients facing hunger.

We continue to listen and learn from our clients and agency partners to understand which food are most desired, like fresh produce and nutritious proteins. We will then infused our food streams with these same items to ensure that the food we distribute actively reflects those who live within our communities.

According to Ellen Brown, Director of Food Resources, the importance of a variety of foods cannot be overstated. She says.

*"Thanks to your support of Food Lifeline, we have increased the procurement of foods most relevant to the communities we serve. Food is a pathway to comfort and sense of belonging, and providing foods specific to a variety of cultures is an important way Food Lifeline is able to support our diverse client base."*

Beyond changing the way we procure food, we are also being thoughtful about connecting with the right agencies who are best positioned to engage with local communities. We formally added new agency partners through the pandemic that specifically serve Black, Indigenous, people of color, Immigrant and Refugee communities. We've re-created our approach to working and onboarding new and current agencies by implementing practices that recognize and uplift the dignity, brilliance, capacity and resolve of our neighbors who visit their local food pantry, or shelter, or meal program.



*"When the season is over, the job is gone, there is no income, and you have to come to the food bank for a little help, then jump to another job, it's short, there's little money, then the food bank helps you... it's enough to get by. When you get the stuff to cook at home, you can use chorizo to make a burrito, or beans, any kind of vegetables with beans, or eggs, then take it to work in the fields."*

— José Macedo, client,  
Tri-Parish Food Bank



# BUILDING THE MOVEMENT TO END HUNGER

We know the most effective way to end hunger is to advocate for government, community, and business resources to help resolve issues; effective public policy has the power to do just that.

Our advocacy work focuses on policies that break down barriers and secure new investments for hunger relief, while also protecting successful safety net programs, such as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), and free and reduced school meal programs. These local, state, and federal programs don't just happen. They are the byproduct of relentless grassroots and policy efforts to raise awareness and amplify the voices of those experiencing food insecurity and its root causes.

We've experienced incredible momentum and legislative successes including passage of a basic needs allowance in the recently authorized National Defense Authorization Act. This specifically assists the 1 in 5 military families that face hunger in Western Washington. Food Lifeline along with a coalition of support including more than 350 agencies led the charge.

By supporting Food Lifeline through charitable contributions, volunteerism, and advocacy engagement, you help support others to do the same. By uniting our voices, we can inspire the political will to focus on these key issues to help end hunger. Together we can elevate hunger as an election issue so that candidates and elected officials know that food insecurity needs to be a legislative priority.



*"By joining our movement to end hunger, your support helps strengthen our voice in Olympia and Washington DC when lawmakers are considering important hunger and poverty issues."*

**— Aaron Czyzewski,  
Director of Advocacy  
& Public Policy  
Food Lifeline**



# FY 2021 FINANCIAL SUMMARY

## REVENUES (BEFORE DONATED FOOD)

<b>Individuals</b>	<b>\$12,782,651</b>
<b>Foundations &amp; Corporations</b>	<b>\$10,302,928</b>
<b>Government Grants/Government Funding</b>	<b>\$13,007,072</b>
<b>In-kind, events, program, rental, misc.</b>	<b>\$5,995,724</b>
<b>PPP Loan Forgiveness</b>	<b>\$1,189,305</b>

TOTAL REVENUE: \$43,248,497

## EXPENSES:

<b>Program Services</b>	<b>\$10,804,292</b>
<b>Management &amp; General</b>	<b>\$2,303,760</b>
<b>Fundraising</b>	<b>\$2,424,459</b>
<b>Net Food Expense</b>	<b>\$16,322,406</b>

TOTAL EXPENSES: (BEFORE FOOD DISTRIBUTION) \$31,854,917

## FOOD

<b>Value Of In-Kind Food Contributions</b>	<b>\$111,803,121</b>
<b>Value Of In-Kind Food Distributions Expenses</b>	<b>(\$128,125,527)</b>

## BALANCE SHEET

<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$72,380,403</b>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>\$21,257,525</b>
<b>Total Net Assets</b>	<b>\$51,122,878</b>

In fiscal year 2021, federal and state COVID-19 emergency responses contributed significant, temporary funds to ease the impact of the pandemic on families facing hunger. These programs, with the generosity of our community, enabled Food Lifeline to respond to unprecedented demand for food assistance. As formalized funding sources retire, Food Lifeline is committed to continuing our elevated response to food insecurity in western Washington. We cannot do this alone, and we invite you to continue to stand with our neighbors and partners. Together we will build a movement to end hunger.



## OUR MISSION

To feed people experiencing hunger today and  
work to end hunger for tomorrow.

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**Vivian dela Rosa**, Chief Operations Officer

**Samantha Franklin**, Chief Financial Officer

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**Ryan Scott**, Chief Development Officer



*"I work for Food Lifeline to apply my years of for-profit work experience toward a mission that benefits my community in a tangible way. It is not enough to collect a paycheck, I want my effort dedicated to helping my neighbors live better lives every day."*

**— Angela Gurney,  
Food Purchasing  
Specialist  
Food Lifeline**

## CONTACT INFORMATION

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