



ISSAQUAH

Food & Clothing Bank

S I N C E 1 9 7 1

Spring/Summer 2026

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From the Director

by Stephanie Norton-Bredl, Executive Director

The arrival of summer brings longer days and children enjoying a well-earned break from school. For many families in our community, however, the season also brings added challenges. With school out, many children lose access to free and reduced-price meals, while rising costs and reductions to SNAP benefits continue to strain household budgets.

Thanks to the generosity of our community, families do not face these challenges alone. Our Summer Lunch Program launched in June, providing fresh, nutritious foods to help keep kitchens stocked throughout the



summer. Staff and volunteers embraced this year's "Eat the Rainbow" theme, creating a welcoming and joyful experience for every family we served.

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Illuminating Hope for Kids

by Bonnie DeCaro-Monahan, Development Director

Childhood food insecurity impacts a child's physical and behavioral health, as well as their self-esteem. This is why our youth nutrition programs are such a vital aspect of helping our community thrive.

We are grateful to all of our partners who support our youth nutrition programs, including KLD Real Estate Group who presents our Illuminating

Hope campaign and fireworks celebration, raising over \$600,000 to support youth nutrition since 2015!

The Illuminating Hope fundraising campaign began in June and will run until we meet our \$140,000 goal. **Thanks to a generous \$20,000 match from KLD Real Estate Group, all**

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From the Director (cont'd)

As summer continues, I encourage you to find ways to strengthen our community, whether by volunteering, donating food, or connecting with a neighbor. Together, these acts of kindness remind us that no one faces difficult times alone.

We are excited to share that on June 25, we purchased the Auto Freight Building, formerly owned by the Issaquah History Museums. This

acquisition marks a significant milestone and brings us closer to creating a larger, more welcoming, and more efficient space to serve our community.

We are grateful for the support that made this possible and look forward to this exciting new chapter.

I look forward to opportunities to connect with you. Please reach out if you'd like to learn more about our work, take a tour, or get involved through volunteerism:
stephanie@issaquahfoodbank.org



2025 Impact Report

Have you seen what you helped make possible in 2025 for approximately 10,500 people?

Don't miss our 2025 Impact Report and spread the good news! See it on our website at issaquahfoodbank.org/ifcb-media-videos/

Branding Professionals Needed

Are you a branding professional with strong experience helping organizations go through re-branding processes? As we prepare for our facility expansion, we are re-

envisioning our name to reduce stigma and other barriers associated with our current name.

We are looking for a branding professional interested in donating time to this worthwhile

cause! Contact Bonnie at bonnie@issaquahfoodbank.org to learn more.

Watch for more news as we engage our community in this process.

What We're Hearing—Fresh Food for Kids

Reflections on our Lunch for the Break and Summer Lunch Programs

"Rheumatoid arthritis with chronic fatigue prevents me from working full time and medications cause severe side effects, so strict diet is the only way to manage symptoms.

The extra produce and other items from the food bank literally keeps me working and off disability, and is a huge stress relief."



"I cannot thank the donors enough for all of their support this summer. This grab and go program worked amazing and was so helpful for me as a single mom. *I was able to get plenty of nutritious food as well as so*

much variety for my child and the program worked seamlessly. Volunteers were so kind and committed to helping our community. I cannot be more thankful for this service and I know there are so many others in community that are benefitting, so thank you again!"

"It has been a struggle to get food and a lot of help for my family. Sometimes I don't know if we're going to have enough and receiving food from *the Issaquah Food & Clothing Bank* always brings me hope that *I will be able to feed my family.* Thank you for your kindness and help."

The Issaquah Food & Clothing Bank distributed 23,925 Power Packs, served 795 kids through Lunch for the Break, and served 990 kids through Summer Lunch in 2025!

Summer Lunch

Did you know that the Issaquah Food & Clothing Bank provides extra support for families with school-age kids during the summer? Summer Lunch is our annual program to help fill the gap when kids aren't receiving lunch at school. Families receive a variety of breakfast, lunch, and snack items, as well as a variety of produce and deli options, every other week. This program, in addition to our Lunch for the Break and Power Packs programs, are supervised by Michelle Whalen, Program Supervisor!



During the summer, we Eat the Rainbow! Each day is focused on a different color of fruits and vegetables and the benefits we get from foods of that color.

Illuminating Hope for Kids (cont'd)



donations between \$150-\$5,000 will be DOUBLED, helping us raise nearly half of our goal so far!

The annual fireworks show over South Lake Sammamish helps draw engagement and awareness in the community for all - whether participants could benefit from our resources or be future volunteers or donors to help keep resources accessible.

This year's event at Vasa Park brought approximately 4,000 people to celebrate the 4th of July with us and to learn more about Issaquah Food & Clothing Bank programs. This year, we partnered with the City of Issaquah to incorporate our annual fireworks celebration into their Down Home Fourth of July activities. Knowing that this would draw a larger crowd, we added free shuttles, an inflatable and facepainting station, and we even had the Issaquah Ice Cream Trike with us to help ensure everyone had a sweet time!

We see a surprising number of single parents, parents unable to work due to illness or injury, and other situations which add to the stress of keeping food on the table at a time when inflation and SNAP restrictions can make that feel impossible.

"Summer is a very difficult time with my daughter out of school . Kid friendly food that is nutritious and filling is expensive. With the help of Summer Lunch, I could feel good about feeding my daughter well with healthy, nutritious, filling food without adding stress to our family . I'm so grateful for Summer Lunch. It makes a big difference in our family's life."

Thank you to KLD Real Estate Group, all of our event sponsors, campaign and event volunteers, and generous donors! Haven't participated yet? It's not too late! Visit bit.ly/Illuminating-Hope-Fireworks to give.



Feeding the Need- ISD Counselor Kathy Wood

By Hannah Harvey, Communications & Grants Administrator

Despite the perception of wealth, family and childhood food insecurity is a real problem in our community. Our programs provide avenues to meet families where they are at, including through their children's schools. We work with the Issaquah School District to provide extra support for families with kids, and to increase awareness about our resources.

"There is a huge need, and I don't know how much that's public knowledge in our community," shared Kathy Wood, a counselor at Clark Elementary School.

"We have so many people that have started coming to us who are saying, 'I never thought I would be the one to need a food bank.'

It's important that they feel like it's okay, that's what we're here for."

Kathy has worked in the Issaquah School District for over 13 years, and during her time, she has seen many families in need come to their children's school for help.

"With all the job cuts and the cost of rent, the cost-of-living period, going so high. I have told people about the Issaquah Food Bank for years and years. It's the number one thing I recommend," Kathy added. "The Power Packs and all the food programs have been a huge blessing to so many."

Power Packs are pre-packed bags of shelf-stable breakfast, lunch, and snack foods that students pick-up at school on Fridays, ensuring they have access to nutritious food and can return to school Monday ready to learn.

"Our job is to educate the kids, and that's our purpose. That's our priority. But there are all



of these other factors impacting the kid's education- they're hungry, they slept on the floor, they don't know where they are going to go tonight. We can connect them to other resources, but that doesn't always fix the problem. There is a barrier to get these resources, and we can see it."

In addition to educating families about the services available through the food bank, Kathy recently went the extra mile to deliver groceries from the food bank to a family with extenuating circumstances. This allowed her to see first-hand what kind of support families are receiving.

"I love all of the resources that the food bank is providing. It's good, good stuff. When you see big cartons of strawberries, bananas, lettuce, milk, peanut butter, eggs, and all of the meat. I had no idea. It's an amazing thing," Kathy said. "When people go and see how beneficial it is, and that there is a sense of choice too...there is fresh vegetables and fruits. **The food bank is here to make sure families don't go into crisis.**"

We are grateful for Kathy Wood and the hundreds of partners we have in local schools who are pointing families to our resources and finding new and creative ways to increase accessibility to the resources they need to thrive.

Spread the word...help is here!

Donation Drives

More people are seeking our services, so your support collecting items from the Priority Needs List on our website is **integral in being able to support the growing need**. We have multiple ways you can do this:

Food & Toiletries Drives

Bring priority needs items (from the list at bit.ly/ifcb-donate-food) to our warehouse at AtWork (930 7th Ave NW, Issaquah, WA 98027) on these specific days/times:

Mon., July 20	1:00 - 3:30 p.m.
Thurs., July 30	1:00 - 3:30 p.m.
Sat., August 8	11:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m.
Thurs., August 13	1:00 - 3:30 p.m.
Mon., August 17	1:00 - 3:30 p.m.

Issaquah-Sammamish Food Project

Start a bi-monthly collection in your neighborhood or join an existing one! Learn more at issaquahsammamishfoodproject.org.

Plan a Food or Toiletries Drive

Contact triciap@issaquahfoodbank.org for details and to ensure we are able to accept your collected donations.

Our Priority Needs List:



Become an Event Sponsor!

Our annual fundraising events provide wide-reaching exposure to businesses in the community while providing important financial support.

Sponsorship packages are available now for Recipe for Hope and the Issaquah Turkey Trot 5K through downtown Issaquah.

Visit issaquahfoodbank.org/event-sponsorships for details and contact triciap@issaquahfoodbank.org with any questions or ideas!

Know of a business? Help us expand our base of support by sending us any referrals for local — and even not so local — businesses that might sponsor these vital efforts while aligning with a beloved community organization.

Thank you!

Recipe for
HOPE



Another Milestone Moment: All Property Acquired!

by Bonnie DeCaro-Monahan, Development Director

In the last seven years, while we have been diligently working to identify a viable facility expansion project to address our long-term space limitations in our current facility, the number of people accessing resources has grown dramatically. **As of December 2025, we are now serving 147% MORE people in our market than we were in 2019.** The result has been severe limitations in how we are able to serve people, including waitlists for our Groceries to Go home delivery program, which serves some of our most vulnerable community members. As our economy becomes increasingly difficult for hundreds of thousands of people in King County, the need continues to grow and our resources become even more critical.

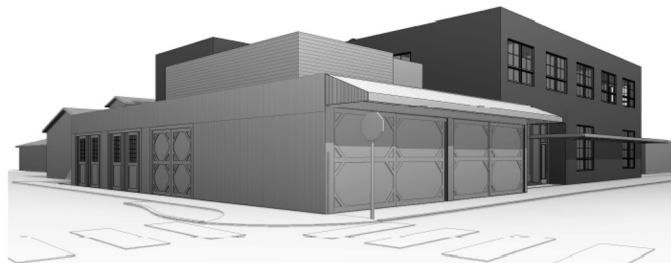
We are thrilled to share good news! After more than a decade and countless hours of work by many dedicated people, **we have successfully secured all the property needed to accommodate our facility expansion.** On June 25, 2026, we purchased the Auto Freight building from Issaquah History Museums. This building, attached to our current food bank building, will enable us to expand to Bush Street and nearly triple our footprint with a second story.

This milestone moment follows our first big step one year prior when we purchased our food bank building from the City of Issaquah on June 30, 2025. Thanks to our dedicated partners who helped us secure Local Community Project funding from the State of Washington in 2021 as well as a private family foundation, both the Auto Freight building and our current food bank building are now owned free and

clear, allowing us to enter into our future capital campaign with no property debt. Thank you to Issaquah Mayor, Mark Mullet, for his support while serving as State Senator, Rep. Lisa Callan, and the late Rep. Bill Ramos (also former State Senator), who championed the State funding and helped keep it secure for five years.

Our future facility will relieve many current limitations to food access for thousands in our region, create a more sustainable avenue for growth, and provide more opportunities for individuals and organizations to engage in helping our community thrive.

We are so thankful to be able to share this exciting news with you and will continue to share milestones along our journey. Next steps will be a campaign planning study this summer, prior to launching our capital campaign in 2027. **If you are interested in learning more, please contact Stephanie at stephanie@issaquahfoodbank.org.**



Preliminary drawings of our future facility, which includes the current Auto Freight building footprint.

ISSAQUAH
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Save the Date!

Recipe for
HOPE

Tuesday, September 29
Breakfast & Lunch
The Golf Club at Newcastle



Thanksgiving Day
November 26
Downtown Issaquah

Our Mission

Unite our community in
nourishing and
nurturing individuals
by removing barriers
to healthy food, vital
resources, and
connections to
essential services.

Visit our website for sponsorship opportunities!

