



Thurston County Food Bank 2009 Report to the Community

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Services Expanded to Meet Demand

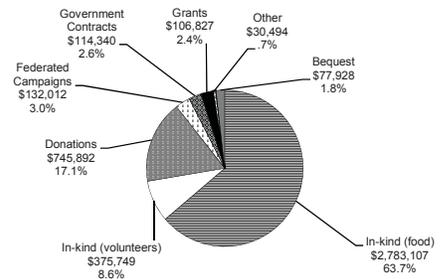
Two thousand and nine was another difficult year for many of our neighbors. Situational poverty -- driven by high unemployment, a difficult economy and scarce resources -- led to longer lines at the Food Bank. We saw new faces each month and returning families needing our help for longer periods of time.

As in previous years, the Food Bank found new ways to better serve our community and expand our outreach programs. FORKids, our school backpack meal program, grew to 31 elementary schools serving 900 children each week. Our satellite Food Bank system expanded to Sundays at two locations and added a site targeted to serve our Hispanic community, "Centro de Vida y Esperanza."

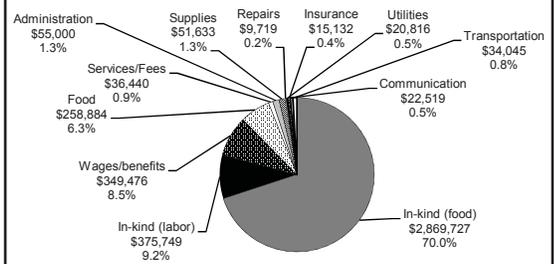
The most rewarding program of 2009 was a summer Mobile Meal program. Not unlike an ice cream truck, a van traveled daily to six locations, providing sack lunches to children where they lived and played. By the end of the summer the program was feeding 165 children each day.

In response to client requests, a primary focus this past year was increasing the amount of produce. We built on a long standing collaboration with the Olympia Kiwanis to increase production. A Gleaning Program was added to build partnerships with local growers and community gardens. During the winter months we purchased winter CSA (Community Shared Agriculture) shares from local growers. Partnerships with larger distribution systems provided more produce locally. The entire effort doubled the amount of fresh produce available to each household and now reflects a significant portion of our in-kind giving.

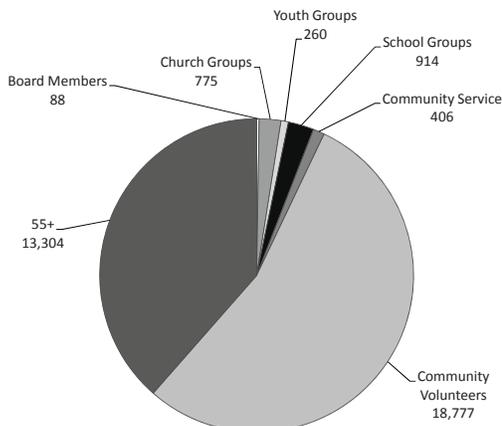
2009 Revenue - \$4,366,349



2009 Expenses - \$4,099,140



2009 Volunteer Hours - 34,524



The Food Bank also had its share of challenges. Our off-site freezer broke and was not repairable. The timing could not have been worse, right before Thanksgiving, causing distribution of Thanksgiving Baskets to go less smoothly than in years past. Our thanks to Colonial Meats, Costco, Fred Meyer and The Dollar Store, all of whom came to our rescue and stored turkeys for us. The installation of a new freezer, this time on-site, was a welcome change. Our thanks to Olympia Federal Savings and Loan and the Community Foundation for making that possible.

The Food Bank, charged with helping our neighbors, is a resource supported by the community itself. This spirit of community -- manifested through your gifts of time, food and cash -- is what makes it possible to help so many. Our sincere thanks. We could not help so many without each of you.

Robert Coit, TCFB Executive Director

2009 Benchmarks

Client Distribution

The number of individuals served in 2009 increased by 18% over the previous year, while the number of households using the Food Bank increased by 18%. A total of 1,219 children received food through the School Weekend Backpack Program (FORKids) an increase of 24% over 2008.

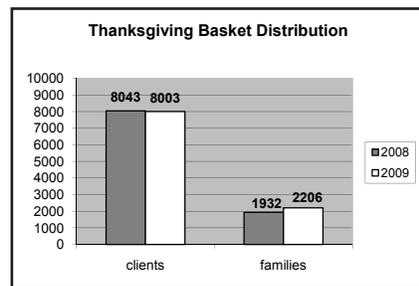
	Number of Families		% change	Number of Individuals		% change
	2008	2009		2008	2009	
Duplicated* Jan-Dec	33,643	36,416	8%	96,932	123,906	18%
Unduplicated* Jan-Dec	10,022	11,864	18%	37,489	31,489	(16)%

* "Duplicated" means counted every time they use the TCFB. "Unduplicated" represents unique individuals/families. The decrease in number of individuals is not due to a decline in those served. The TCFB changed how it tracks "anonymous" individuals, such as those in FORKids, They are now captured in number of visits.

Thanksgiving Basket Distribution

The number of Thanksgiving Meal baskets distributed to families by the Thurston County Food Bank increased by 14% in 2009. Over eight thousand individuals were served, approximately the same number as 2008, reflecting smaller family size.

	2008	2009	% change
Individuals/Clients	8,043	8,003	--
Families/Baskets	1,932	2,206	14%



High School Food Drive

The largest single food drive of the year collected \$119,767 in food value (in-kind food) a decrease of 8% compared to 2008. Cash gifts remained at the same level.

	2008	2009	% change
Total Food Value	\$129,767	\$119,176	(8%)
Monetary Donations	\$36,095	\$35,915	--

Combined Fund Drive

The State of Washington's workplace campaign is the single largest donor to the Food Bank. These pledges and one time gifts to the Food Bank increased by an incredible 52% overall when compared to 2008.

	2008 CFD	2009 CFD
One Time Donations/Events	\$9,750	\$42,857
Recurring Payroll Deduction	\$97,524	\$119,787
Total Pledges/Raised	\$107,274	\$162,644

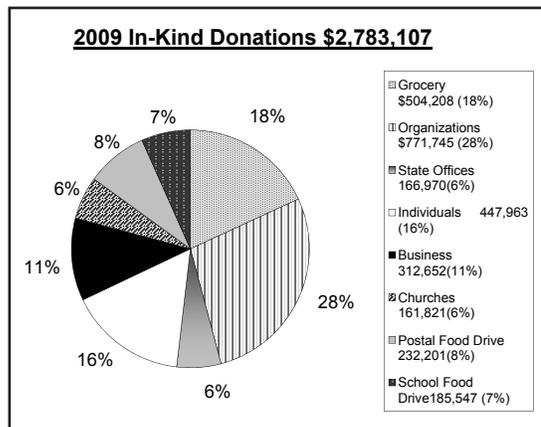
Summary

In 2009 the number of people using the Food Bank once again climbed. Although we saw an increase in the number of first time users, the most dramatic change was in how often our clients used the Food Bank. On average, the number of visits per client each year increased from four in 2008 to seven in 2009.

This increase in visit frequency pushed up the "total visits" for the year from just under 100,000 in 2008 to almost 130,000 in 2009. Clearly families need more help and are using the Food Bank more often to make ends meet.

All of our services saw increased demand and were expanded in some way to meet the need. From the FORKids program, to gleaning, to alternative distribution sites, times and methods, the Food Bank worked to eliminate hunger among our neighbors.

Only through the community's support of the Food Bank -- through gifts of time, food and cash -- is it possible to help so many. Our sincere thanks to everyone.



Thurston County Food Bank Core Values

Philosophy: "We believe that the hungry must be fed in an atmosphere of neighbor helping neighbor."

Mission: "It is the mission of the Thurston County Food Bank to eliminate hunger within our community."

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