Challenging Year Yet Bright Spots Still Abound

It was a challenging year for both monetary and in kind donations. Although the Thurston County Food Bank had increased success with grants, some of our traditional support has eroded as the continued economic stresses take their toll.

Demand for services continues to increase. The bulk of the growth is in the satellite/mobile program as well as the Forkids program which targets services to our community’s homeless children. Over 1,200 children were served last year through the summer meals program. Though this is rewarding to serve so many the need is still much greater than our current capacity.

The Food Bank is now open one day each month for older community members and those with disabilities. During 2011 we also expanded Monday, Wednesday and Friday operations by one hour, but the lines remain long. Our hours those days are now 11am - 3pm.

Current pilot projects include our School Garden Program and home delivery of food to isolated seniors. Other bright spots include the Birthday Bag Project which served 1,200 children, the Christmas Stocking Project which served 700 children and the Easter Basket Project which served 500 children. These programs are entirely volunteer run, community supported efforts. They have no impact on the Food Bank’s budget but tremendous impact on the children they serve.

We continue to work on improving our building. We recently added an awning to the exterior in order to provide some shelter during inclement weather. The doorway mosaics were highlighted in The Olympian during the summer. Work on the interior has made things run a little smoother and reminds volunteers and clients of a farmers’ market.

This past year the Food Bank was nominated as a Business of the Year finalist in the non-profit category (Thurston EDC) and was selected as the runner up for the Excellence in Collaboration Award 2011 (Food Lifeline).

It is the mission of the Thurston County Food Bank to end hunger in our community, in the spirit of neighbor helping neighbor. This is as needed today as it was forty years ago when the doors first opened.

Robert Coit, TCFB Executive Director
2011 Benchmarks

Client Distribution
The number of visits in 2011 increased by 19% compared to 2010. The number of households using the Food Bank increased by 5% in 2011. A total of 2,100 children received food through the School Weekend Backpack Program, an increase of 24% over 2010.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of Families</th>
<th>% change</th>
<th>Number of Individuals</th>
<th>% change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Visits: Jan-Dec</td>
<td>2010: 39,505</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>2010: 150,122</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2011: 41,565</td>
<td></td>
<td>2011: 178,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>People: Jan-Dec</td>
<td>2010: 12,543</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>2010: 31,735</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2011: 13,123</td>
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<td>2011: 39,010</td>
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Thanksgiving Basket Distribution
The number of Thanksgiving Meal baskets distributed by the Thurston County Food Bank increased by 7%. The number of people served increased by 12%.

| Individuals/Clients | 2010: 10,293 | 12%  |
| Families/Baskets    | 2,215        | 7%   |

Combined Fund Drive
The State of Washington’s workplace campaign is the single largest donor to the Food Bank. The pledges and one time gifts to the Food Bank decreased by 13% overall. Following most giving trends, support from workplace campaigns continues to decline.

- One Time Donations/Events: 2010 CFD $21,794, 2011 CFD $8,581
- Total Pledges/Raised: 2010 CFD $151,704, 2011 CFD $131,764

High School Food Drive
This is traditionally the largest single food drive of the year. It was affected by the poor economy and saw decreases in food and cash donations. We are truly grateful for the efforts of our community’s young adults.

| Total Food Value | 2010: $104,700, 2011: $100,740 (4%) |
| Monetary Donations | 2010: $31,435, 2011: $22,981 (26%) |

Federal Foods
In addition to the foods purchased and those donated locally, we distributed 376,015 pounds of Federal Commodities.

The types of foods in this program have changed a lot over the years. In 2011 we saw dried figs, pasta, oatmeal, vegetable oil, frozen chicken, eggs, and fruits/vegetables packed in water or their own juices.

On average families received 24 pounds each month.

Year | Pounds Distributed | Households | lbs per Home |
---|-------------------|------------|--------------|
2010 | 202,479           | 12,543     | 16           |
2011 | 376,015           | 15,570     | 24           |

Summary
Clearly the number of people receiving food assistance through the Thurston County Food Bank continues to increase dramatically. We have seen increases across the board in all of our programs, most notably in the number of visits which reached 178,000 for 2011.

The number of larger families accessing services increased by 8% overall, most likely a result of extended family members moving back home. Giving was generally flat. Our cash giving remained steady throughout the year, though formerly strong supporters are no longer able to give at the same level. This puts additional reliance on grant support.

During 2011 in-kind giving, particularly food drives (non-perishable foods), saw a decline. This happened at a time when our demand for services increased by 19%.

Federal Commodities Station

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Celebrating 40
Year - 1972 to 2012
2011 TCFB Report to the Community

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.