

WINTER 2022

# THE FRONT BURNER

## A Thurston County Food Bank Publication



### A Note From Our New CEO



Jay Kang, TCFB's Chief Executive Officer

I have been serving communities I am a part of through nonprofit organizations all my life. As an immigrant growing up in Philadelphia, I learned how important it was to help my communities as there continued to be more need than I could have imagined. As I grew older, my dedication grew with me, and I have been doing this work in the Northwest for about 20 years now.

I joined the Thurston County Food Bank on November 1st, 2022, as the Chief Executive Officer, to serve the community with the staff and volunteers along with the Board. This work is particularly close to my heart because I was once a beneficiary of my local food bank's services. There was a time in my life when I needed extra support and resources. The food bank was a great resource for my family and I relied on the food I received. Through this experience, I always carried with me the importance of accessing basic needs for everyone. However, it wasn't

until I helped out at the Thurston County Food Bank that I witnessed how dedicated the volunteers and staff were to ensuring that people can access those basic needs. We had a Thanksgiving Box Build event with more than 400 volunteers helping us prepare for food distribution during Thanksgiving week. Many people who were in the line told me that they were regulars and they were glad to meet me. It touched my heart as I saw communities supporting communities and neighbors helping neighbors. I was so touched by the dedication of all the staff and volunteers helping at the event, who smiled and welcomed everyone.

This was the spirit that I was drawn to — the dedication of everyone who is involved in helping others. I cannot thank the staff and volunteers enough for all the dedication and hard work they put in. As we face the beginning of the new year, I am very thankful for this great spirit that the community has shown me. I am a better person because of your generosity.

Jay Kang, Chief Executive Officer

### Thank You to OUR 2022 Board of Directors

Bruce Wollstein | **President**  
Lisa Johnson | **Vice President**  
Brad Hooper | **Treasurer**  
Glenn Waugh | **Secretary**  
Pamela Brokaw  
Jeanne Englert  
Steve Hall  
Sharon Harvey  
Jim Hindman  
Megan Hubbard  
Jeff Kopp  
Mariel Plaeger-Brockway  
Andrew Prentice  
Naki Stevens  
Kalo Wilcox  
Kris Zabriskie-Olson

# Stockings for Kids & Teens

by Anna-Min Kellogg

AmeriCorps, Program Assistant—Produce Team Support



*'Twas the week before Christmas, when all through the Food Bank pantries, beautiful homemade stockings rested next to mugs filled with candies. Through baskets of toys, kids excitedly rummaged, and to all who organized, sewed, and donated to our Holiday Stockings, we pay greatest homage.*



WA Stars Quilt Guild quilters help with distribution.

Our Holiday Stocking program for kids aims to create a positive experience for the community members we serve. A festive holiday tradition, the stockings offer an opportunity for families to cherish time together and represent the magic and giving-spirit of the holiday season. In previous years, families were handed pre-stuffed stockings filled with something warm, something to read, something to do, something fun and something sweet. This year, as Covid restrictions eased and we returned to our indoor shopping model, families were able choose the items they wanted, creating a more positive and personal experience. Some parents even asked their kids to stand to the side while they searched for the right toy to surprise them!



**1,211 stockings** over the course of the week! With 40% of the stockings given to teenagers, we hope to provide more age-appropriate gifts for teens next year. A huge thank you to everyone in the community who sewed the beautiful reversible stockings and bags, and who donated items, money, and their time to make our Holiday Stocking program a success!

Although the icy rain foiled our stocking distribution plans on the final day some staff and volunteers braved the roads to hand out stockings. We gave out

## Holiday Meal Successes

During Thanksgiving week 2022, TCFB — via our food pantries, pop-up, satellites, mobiles, home deliveries and partners — provided over **3,500 households** (10,700 individuals) with food to prepare delicious holiday meals. This was an increase of approximate 17% over the number of holiday meal boxes provided in 2021, and we could not have done it without tremendous volunteer and staff support. Thank you!!

Leading up to distribution week was our November 5th Holiday Box Build at the warehouse — where 435 wonderful volunteers gave 1,192 hours of their time to build holiday food boxes! After a two-year hiatus due to Covid, it was nice to see people working together, even in cramped spaces with total strangers, and having a good time. Thanks to all the staff and volunteers who made it happen! And thanks also to all who donated turkeys — a shout-out to Munoz Home Group, who donated 300 turkeys and Medline Industries, LP, another 50!

A reflection from a first-time volunteer group:

*"I hope you had a great weekend. I wanted to express my sincere appreciation for you allowing my Air Force team to come assist on Saturday. It was a great event and was amazing to see so many from the community out and supporting. We were glad to take part and assist in the events of that day. I cannot express thank you enough times for you hosting us to come out. I truly appreciate it and I look forward to participating in future events!"*



Munoz Home Group delivering 300 turkeys, an annual tradition!

We need  
volunteers  
at all sites!



## Lacey Farm Stand



by Zoë Lovato, Lacey Farm Stand Coordinator  
& Client Services Coordinator

### Volunteer for TCFB:

#### Olympia's Food Pantry:

M,W,F: 7:45-12, 11:45-4  
ocscvolunteers@  
thurstoncountyfoodbank.org

#### Lacey's Food Pantry:

T,Th: 9-12:30, 12-3  
2<sup>nd</sup> Wed 3-7pm  
lscsvolunteers@  
thurstoncountyfoodbank.org

#### Farm Stand: Sat 10:00-1:30

farmstand@  
thurstoncountyfoodbank.org

#### Tumwater Warehouse:

T,W,Th: 9-12, 1-4  
wdcvolunteers@  
thurstoncountyfoodbank.org

#### Satellites, Mobiles, Home Deliveries:

satellite@  
thurstoncountyfoodbank.org

#### Kiwanis Gardens:

mackenziem@  
thurstoncountyfoodbank.org

#### Gleaning Program:

gleaning@  
thurstoncountyfoodbank.org

Apply at: [thurstoncountyfoodbank.org/  
volunteer/](http://thurstoncountyfoodbank.org/volunteer/)

On the edge of Martin Way E sits a small building that at first glance might look like a little red barn. Rounding the corner reveals a beautiful, white, wooden door nestled behind four sturdy pillars and an awning. Under this cover from the rain, the wind, or even the blazing sun—something magical happens. During the growing and harvest seasons you can find a small team of Food Bank staff and volunteers orchestrating a cacophony of produce into a wonderful (and free!) display.

Designed to be set up much like a farmer's market, the Lacey Farm Stand operates out of black produce crates stacked neatly on wooden shelves. There you will find a great variety of herbs, vegetables, and fruits. During certain weeks in the summer there may also be herb and veggie plant starts available to take home and plant in your own garden for later enjoyment.

The Farm Stand's primary focus is handing out produce that is fresh, nutritious, and local. Much of the produce handed out is sourced from our Gleaning Program and our Kiwanis Gardens Program. We have also partnered with local farms to receive a weekly delivery of fresh produce that we are able to pay for through a Farm to Food Pantry grant from the WSDA. In addition to that, we are lucky to receive frequent donations from local community and home gardeners who bring us their excess produce to be handed out and enjoyed. We are incredibly grateful to all the farmers, gardeners, volunteers, and community partners who help keep our shelves stocked. What makes the Farm Stand so special is the unique nature of its distribution. Only available on Saturdays, we aim to offer an option to clients who are unable to visit during the week. Healthy eating is the focus of the Farm Stand, and we enjoy giving out recipes and swapping tips on how to prepare and cook the various fruits and veggies available each week. The energy the overall community brings to the farm stand experience is one of warmth, gratitude, and fun.

In 2022 the Farm Stand was open from February to November and served over 450 unique households. Come visit us in 2023 for some delicious fresh produce, fun recipes, and community connections—and help that number grow!

TCFB is closed  
Monday, Jan. 16  
for Martin Luther  
King Jr. Day

## Food Distribution Services at Primary Locations:

#### Olympia's Food Pantry:

220 Thurston Ave NE  
Mon, Wed, Fri:  
10:30am-3pm

#### Lacey's Food Pantry:

7027 Martin Way E  
Tues, Thur: 10am-2pm  
2nd Wed: 4-6pm

#### Lacey Farm Stand:

7027 Martin Way E  
Saturdays (closed for  
winter): 11am-1pm

#### Tumwater Pop-Up:

940 Israel Rd SW  
2nd & 4th Thur each  
month: 10am-1pm

**Important service change: Starting February 1, 2023, each household will get only 2 Full Visits, 4 Supplemental Visits, and 1 Full Other Bank Visit per month. Details coming soon to our website.**

Questions or comments? Contact us at 360-352-8597, or visit our website at [thurstoncountyfoodbank.org](http://thurstoncountyfoodbank.org) for a Staff Directory and Satellite Food Bank Locations.