

## THE DIAPER BANK MOVES TO CCFB



Clark County Food Bank is now operating a diaper bank! Originally established by Battle Ground Adventist Community Services in 2018, this program has met a critical need in the community, distributing 1,544,070 diapers to families in Clark County from 2018 to 2025. When Battle Ground Adventist Community Services reached out to let us know they were unable to continue providing diapers in the community, we knew we had to pick up where they left off!

Now part of CCFB, the diaper bank continues to serve families at over a dozen distribution locations throughout Clark County, helping ensure that no

child goes without the basics. As a member of the National Diaper Bank Network, CCFB has access to discounted diapers and a variety of educational materials for parents. By sharing resources, partnerships, and learnings, this partnership makes available resources go even further.

Diapers are more than a necessity. They represent care, dignity, and relief for families navigating tough times. By integrating this program into our existing services, we're deepening our commitment to not only alleviate hunger, but also support the health and stability of our neighbors in meaningful, practical ways.

## MORE THAN A MEAL: **FOOD+**

Our mission is to alleviate hunger and its root causes. It takes many hands to tackle such big work like this—more than 4,300 donors, 4,600 volunteers, and 50 nonprofits work together to ensure food and other resources get out into the community in a collaborative, shared effort. Together, we distributed over 10.1 million pounds of food in 2024 working to alleviate hunger. However, we know that hunger is rarely just about food. That's why we built the Food+ Programs.

Alleviating the root causes of hunger, that second part of our mission, is complicated. Individuals rely on food assistance for many reasons, some of which are far beyond

our control. But there are areas where we can lean in and make a difference. Through Nutrition Education, Financial Empowerment, Workforce Development, and Resource Navigation, we provide tangible tools and opportunities that help people move beyond crisis.

When we survey and meet with clients, these needs rise to the top again and again. Food+ Programs were created in response. These aren't a one-size-fits-all solutions, but are practical, community-driven supports that can help bring individuals and families out of food insecurity. Whether it's learning to cook healthy meals on a budget, navigating SNAP (food

stamps) enrollment, preparing for job interviews, or building a stronger financial foundation, these programs meet people where they are and honor the full complexity of their lives.

Hunger may be the entry point, but dignity, resilience, and long-term change are the goal.

To learn more visit



[clarkcountyfoodbank.org/food-plus](http://clarkcountyfoodbank.org/food-plus).

# PARTNER AGENCY HIGHLIGHT

## FISH OF VANCOUVER

*“The mobile pantry’s mission is to reach clients in the community who cannot get to FISH’s brick-and-mortar pantry location downtown.”*

— James Fitzgerald, Executive Director



FISH of Vancouver has been serving the community since 1969, eventually finding a home on Harney Street downtown in 2015. A few years ago, they decided to take their efforts on the road and launched a new program: the Mobile Food Pantry!

The mobile pantry’s mission is to reach clients in the community who cannot get to FISH’s pantry location downtown. With the help of volunteers, they distribute fresh, frozen, and staple items at various “pop up” locations around the county. “The program has been a slower build than we anticipated due to major growth at our downtown pantry,” said James Fitzgerald, Executive Director, “but this year we are moving forward with new sites.”

In addition to the five existing sites being served, they recently added Smith Tower, Kiggins Village Safe Stay, and distributions at Walnut Grove School. With more locations requesting services, the FISH team is vetting their capacity along with each site’s need and location.

As the need for services grows, FISH has a renewed commitment to expanding their mobile program to reach those in need of food.

FISH of Vancouver is one of 50+ Partner Agencies distributing food to the community. In 2024, FISH of Vancouver distributed 2,167,941 pounds of food to 44,889 households, making them one of the largest food distribution agencies in Clark County!

## FOOD BANK FRESH RETURNS ROLLING OUT FRESH FOOD

Food Bank Fresh is back for the summer, bringing fresh, nutritious food straight to neighbors across Clark County. This farmers market-style mobile pantry travels from June through September, delivering farm-grown produce and pantry staples. As with all of our free food distributions, there is no ID, proof of income, or paperwork required.

Hosted at sites across the county, Food Bank Fresh helps bridge the gap for families facing barriers to transportation or traditional food access. By meeting people where they are, we make it easier for our neighbors to get the nourishment they deserve, with dignity and ease.

In the 1,469 visits to our mobile locations last year, Food Bank Fresh distributed 71,736 lbs. of food. This averaged roughly 41 meals per household visit. With support from incredible community partners and passionate volunteers, we have brought pantry shopping out to the community for another summer. Together, we’re making summer brighter, one fresh bag of food at a time. Every action helps keep Food Bank Fresh rolling. Learn how to get involved at: [clarkcountyfoodbank.org/volunteer](http://clarkcountyfoodbank.org/volunteer).



# FARMER SPOTLIGHT

## HEIDI'S FANCY GOODS

"Good Food Available for All" is the heart and soul of local grower, Heidi Zimmerman's, work at Heidi's Fancy Goods. A lifelong steward of the land, Heidi comes from a long line of organic farmers. At her Amboy, WA, farm, regeneration, sustainability, and reverence for the earth shape her farming practices.

From the varieties of fruits and vegetables she chooses to grow to her relationship with her land and animals—Heidi makes decisions rooted in intention. Whether

you're visiting her at the Vancouver Farmers Market or savoring one of her blushing onions or blue Hubbard squash, Heidi's passion for food justice and community education is contagious.

Heidi is one of the many incredible local farmers Clark County Food Bank has partnered with through federal food purchasing programs. We're grateful for her commitment to growing clean, nutrient-dense food for our community. We look forward to future opportunities to partner alongside local farms!



Heidi with one of her favorite apple trees, which are grown without synthetic sprays as part of a commitment to sustainable, eco-friendly farming.

## DONATE FRESH PRODUCE

### GIVE WHAT YOU GROW

Did you know that farms and home gardeners can donate extra produce to Clark County Food Bank? If your garden is overflowing, we'd love to help share the abundance with neighbors experiencing food insecurity! We accept most fruits and vegetables grown in home gardens.

Drop off fresh produce at our warehouse, 6502 NE 47th Ave, Vancouver, WA 98661, Monday through Friday, 8 am–12 pm and 1 pm–4 pm.

*Please note: Due to safety guidelines, we are unable to accept leafy greens.*

## COMPOST DELIVERY



Healthy soil means more nutritious food for our community! This spring at our Heritage Farm location, 500 yards of organic compost was spread across five acres, boosting soil health.

This was made possible through a partnership with Clark Conservation District, Clark County Public Health, and Dirt Huggers!

### Want to dig in and help?

Learn more about volunteering at: [clarkcountyfoodbank.org/volunteer](http://clarkcountyfoodbank.org/volunteer).



### Farming and Gleaning Program

Through partnerships with local farms, and gleaning efforts at farmers markets, Clark County Food Bank recovers thousands of pounds of fresh produce each season.

In 2024, the CCFB Farming and Gleaning program procured more than 480,000 pounds of fresh local produce! Over 35,000 pounds was gleaned from the Vancouver Farmers Market—excellent quality product that would have otherwise gone to waste. 380,000 pounds of product was procured from local farmers through purchasing agreements. We also planted and harvested over 62,000 pounds of produce at Heritage Farm on 78th Street. This collaborative work reduces food waste and ensures that nutritious, locally-grown fruits and vegetables reach neighbors facing hunger across Clark County.

# A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

For many people, the end of the calendar year is a time for resolutions. It is a moment to reflect on what matters and commit to the months ahead with fresh focus. For us at Clark County Food Bank, that moment comes in July.

July marks the start of our fiscal year. In the months leading up to it, we spend time preparing. We reflect on who we are and how we want to impact our community, we shape our strategic plan, and we build a budget to ensure we can make it all happen.

After a season of transition and growth, we are thinking deeply about how to move forward with clarity and purpose. How do we build something lasting? How do we serve well, care well, and lead well as a team and as a community?

Recently, our board and leadership team gathered for a full day of strategic planning, asking what it means to grow thoughtfully, serve effectively, and remain rooted in compassion. One message stood out: the work ahead must be shaped by listening deeply to our community and built through collaboration.

That spirit is reflected throughout this issue of The Lunchbox. Whether it is the launch of Food+, the return of Food Bank Fresh, or welcoming the Diaper Bank into our care, everything we do is centered on meeting people where they are and helping remove barriers that stand in the way of stability.

And none of it happens alone. From local growers, like Heidi, to agency leaders like those at FISH, to supporters like you, this work is shared. Thank you for being part of it. Together, we can continue building a stronger, more connected community.

With gratitude,



**Emily Straw**  
President, Clark County Food Bank

## SAVE THE DATES!

# GIVE MORE 24!

A GREATER VANCOUVER CHAMBER PROGRAM

**September 25, 2025**

Give More 24! is a day of giving dedicated to Southwest Washington nonprofits. Starting September 9, you can support Clark County Food Bank during this campaign at: [givemore24.org/organization/Clark-County-Food-Bank](http://givemore24.org/organization/Clark-County-Food-Bank).




**Thanksgiving Morning, November 27, 2025**

Join Southwest Washington's largest Thanksgiving run and support Clark County Food Bank! Each year hundreds of families get together to run at Salmon Creek Trails near Kline Pond Regional Park. All proceeds go directly to helping people in our community get the food they need. For more information, visit: [clarkcountyfoodbank.org/turkey-trot](http://clarkcountyfoodbank.org/turkey-trot).



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