



WINTER 2025

Bonner Community Food Bank

Quarterly Newsletter



Feeding Bonner County residents in a time of personal crisis.

It's 2025- welcome to our first quarter edition of Bonner Community Food Bank (BCFB) newsletter! We are honored to share our updates and impact as we work together to meet our mission.

The first quarter has been a time to reflect on 2024, and also a time to look to the horizon of the new year ahead. Highlights of last year include the launch of new website, a CAL grant that allowed us to purchase our new commercial walk-in freezer, a van for our Priest River location, and the creation of the BCFB Quarterly Newsletter. We could list so many other important things happening in our little corner of the world - all of them unique to our community. Read on to find out!

We serve an average of 3,000 people every month and our numbers are in for last year. There has been a 15% increase in visits, which underscores our mission and need for resources to maintain a supply of essential food.

We are so grateful to all of the people, businesses and organizations that contribute. Our collective effort makes a real difference in the lives of those who need it. Thank you for your continued support!

BCFB Team

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Food Rescue Partnerships

Our Food Rescue partnerships are a vital part of our mission at Bonner Community Food Bank. Five days a week, our van visits 3 to 5 local grocery stores to pick up donated items—everything from fresh produce and meat to bread, dairy, and shelf-stable goods. These donations are safe, nutritious foods that have been pulled from shelves as they near their sell-by dates but are still perfectly good to eat. With the help of our dedicated volunteers, we collect, inspect, and redistribute these items—keeping our Client Choice Market stocked and helping our neighbors access the healthy food they need.

This program is a true win-win-win for our community. It reduces food waste, supports local hunger relief, and provides grocery stores a sustainable way to give back. Our Food Rescue efforts result in hundreds of meals each week, and they've become one of our most reliable sources of perishable foods—so important for a balanced diet. We're grateful for the commitment of our partner grocers and the hard work of our staff and volunteers who make it all possible.



Our Impact in the 1st Quarter



5,022
Household
Visits



9,916
People
Reached



3,539 Volunteer
Hours Donated



30,091 lbs
Food
Purchased



106,874 lbs
Food Rescued



43,253 lbs
USDA
Distributed



23,575 lbs
Food Donated



203,793 lbs
Into our
Community

Combined numbers for Priest River and Sandpoint locations.

Empty Bowl 2025



"The lady at the food bank said it was okay!" Debbie joked with me as we worked on arranging the silent auction items for the Empty Bowl fundraiser. Working on the mission of overcoming food insecurity can be a heavy and carry difficult truths. We try to bring levity and playfulness in when we can.

Preparing for and hosting this special fundraiser is one of those unique times when we can. The concept was developed almost 40 years ago when an art teacher in Michigan found a way to engage his students in a charitable cause and raise awareness about hunger. Bowls were made and filled with a simple meal of soup. Diners enjoy a warm meal, then take the bowl home as a reminder of all the empty bowls around the world. The concept spread quickly, and this type of fundraiser is held in many variations across the nation. We are so grateful for our partnership with Sandpoint High School Art Department. Thank you to our sponsors, board and the volunteers who helped make it a memorable afternoon.

IDFB Conference

A pair of BCFB staffers were able to attend the Idaho Food Bank Annual Partner Conference in Moscow in late March. The conference brings together pantries and food banks in the north central region to network, share ideas and receive any updates in policy and protocols. Highlights for attendees last week included information on practical nutrition, and ideas on development of volunteers as leaders for the benefit of the community. Oh, and Patti won the raffle!



Volunteer Highlight

Susie Enos



Susie is such an invaluable asset to the Bonner Community Food Bank team. She takes the mission to heart and it shows everyday on her shifts when working with the hundreds of shoppers that we see every week. She is quick with a smile and is always willing to go the extra mile. We are incredibly grateful that Susie is part of our food bank family!



This year Bonner Community Food Bank celebrates 45 years of service to our community. The food bank formed in 1980, lead by the vision of Florence Carter and a group of dedicated citizens. Could her vision possibly have included an organization that has evolved into what we do today?

- 2 locations
- 38,000 annual visits
- 9 board members
- 60 volunteers
- On-site garden
- 654,109 pounds of donated food (2024)
- 14,122 Volunteer hours donated
- Host location for Easter Seals, Coats 4 Kids, PSNI, CSFP.
- Site for Weekend Food Program

Save the date to celebrate! October 18, 5-8pm at the fairgrounds!

Q1 Memories!



Winter Birthday
celebration for
Susie K!

Our Supreme
Commander & the
Food Bank Dream
Team!



We appreciate Albeni Falls
Building Supply!



Amy & Jamie!



Thank you, Mrs. Dillon!
We love SHS artists!



-Our Safeway grocery rescue partners-