we can thrive together

ISSAQUAH
Food & Clothing Bank
2017 Impact Report
Dear Partners,

On behalf of the staff, board and most importantly, the people we serve, thank you for your interest in and support for the Issaquah Food & Clothing Bank! 2017 was an encouraging year for increased capacity to meet the growing need, yet challenging given the continued gap for those accessing our services.

In looking forward, we are particularly excited about what lies ahead in 2018:

• Expanding our youth feeding programs with the long-term goal of serving all children in our community that are food insecure
• Increasing our outreach and building new partnerships with the intent to serve our clients better through community collaboration
• Piloting a mobile food bank program utilizing a refrigerated box truck so that we can more easily touch pocket communities who struggle with getting their basic needs met
• Continuing to improve our shopping space to enhance the overall shopping flow for our clients and provide the most dignified experience possible
• Improving our volunteer work space to maximize functionality and safety

While the local economy is booming, it’s important to understand that not everyone is participating equally due to income disparity. Unfortunately, for those who are not benefiting from the growing fruits of our economy, times are only getting harder. Basic needs including housing, transportation, food and clothing are increasingly difficult to afford. That’s where you continue to make a clear difference in the lives of those we serve. So as you review our impact report, please accept our sincere appreciation and know you have played a substantial role in making all this happen.

Thank you for your partnership!

Cori Walters
Tom Ehlers
Executive Director
Board Chair

5,228 individuals living under the poverty line in 2016*

4,027 individuals served in 2017

77% served

23% gap

5% of population

1,528 children receiving free or reduced-price lunches at school**

1,201 children served in 2017

50,000

40,000

30,000

20,000

10,000

396 children receiving food through our summer lunch program

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*U.S. Census Bureau  
**Issaquah School District, Feb. 2018
Christina Martin has an infectious positivity. Despite the challenges life has thrown at her, Christina, along with her three kids—Christian, 13, Sophia, 11, and Joshua, 6—looks at each day with optimism and self-assurance.

Having grown up in poverty, Christina has found the cycle extremely difficult to break. When she had the opportunity to move into affordable housing in Issaquah eleven years ago, she jumped at the chance as a step towards ending that cycle. She loved that Front Street looked the same as she remembered it as a child. “I like the people here. I like the small town vibe (Issaquah) gives off,” Christina said. But, living in Issaquah has its challenges too—and the number one challenge is “transportation.” Christina added, “Getting around town is somewhat difficult.” Christina doesn’t own a car, so if a needed service isn’t on a bus line, getting there can be nearly impossible. Christina’s daughter has an ongoing medical condition which requires many doctor appointments. Hopelink’s medical transportation program, which serves all of King County, has been key to getting them to medical appointments not on a bus route.

As a single mom of three, Christina envisions a different future for her children. While it can be a struggle for her to make ends meet each month, she has appreciated being able to access food bank services since her 13-year-old was a toddler. Christina just started a new job in December 2017, and shared how difficult it can be to get dinner on the table for three kids on a working mom. She said that the Issaquah Food & Clothing Bank helps her to create quality meals, down to the little details, like extra cheese for Taco Tuesday. “Now I have food at the end of the day when my kids ask what’s for dinner?” Christina said she loves being able to make dinner for her kids at home instead of relying on cheaper, less healthy options like fast food.

Because of her new work schedule and her restrictions with bus transportation, Christina now participates in the Issaquah Food & Clothing Bank’s Groceries to Go program, which delivers groceries to families who aren’t able to shop in person at the food bank. Christina said Groceries to Go has “helped me 10 times over.” With a tight schedule and a lot of responsibility between home and work, Groceries to Go allows Christina the time and energy to focus on what’s important to her and her family. She especially loves the milk, fruit, and vegetables that are delivered. Six-year-old Joshua loves the small size milk his mom can pack in his lunch, “He gets so excited when he sees it,” Christina said.

Christina also participates in the Issaquah Food & Clothing Bank’s special programs. Her favorite is the Holiday Gift Barn because “it allows me to give my kids a Christmas—a little something special that may not be able to provide.” Christina Sophia said “The best thing about the necktie gift barn (ohh!), so their favorite program is a lunch for the month with the food and snacks that come in each box. Christina said Sophia, 11, loves getting a big jar of crunchy peanut butter and hiding it from her brothers so she can eat it all.

Christina wanted to end by saying this about the Issaquah Food & Clothing Bank community: “Everyone is amazing and helpful and kind. I thank them all, every one of them, for all of their hard work. Not just for me, but for our whole community.”

I thank them all.
1 in 5 Issaquah renters and homeowners were severely housing cost burdened in 2015 (costs exceeding 50% of household income). When housing expenditures take a large part of a family’s budget, funds remaining for essentials like food and clothing are significantly reduced.

54,363 bags of groceries totaling 1,015,572 lbs of food

824 hours of one-on-one case management support

$22,594 spent on eviction prevention and utility support

3,701 bags of toiletries

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4,458 packages of diapers

5,228 individuals in our service area are living under the poverty line.

2,769 Issaquah residents experienced a disability in 2015 (8.3% of total population, 5% of children under 18, and 30% of those 65 and older).

1,968 deliveries of food and household items to clients who were ill, disabled, or otherwise unable to access our services

103 different languages are translatable on our website and our staff members speak 4 different languages.

Our food bank signage uses a multilingual pictorial system to help clients easily navigate our services.

30% of families in the Issaquah School District speak a language other than English at home. There’s a need for linguistically and culturally accessible services and a less complex service system to reduce significant barriers for the community.

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22,594 bags of clothing and household items

$44,759 spent on eviction prevention and utility support

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After seven years and $280,000 raised for the Issaquah Food & Clothing Bank, you’d expect that Heather Matthews would be full of well-earned pride for everything she has built through our annual Turkey Trot event. Humility, however, is one of her greatest traits, along with determination, perseverance and a very compassionate and willing heart! Having been raised with a mother who was often volunteering for and giving to the Issaquah Food & Clothing Bank, she always felt a connection and continued in her mother’s example.

In 2010, Heather (who was 7 months pregnant at the time) held the first annual Issaquah Turkey Trot with mostly family and friends from her community. Despite a blizzard that Thanksgiving morning, 325 of her 350 registrants came out to support the food bank and make Heather’s dream a reality with $4,000 raised from the first event and everyone happy to be there even in the harshest weather. Heather knew there was something special there.

Subsequent years brought more challenges, but each always ended with great success! Routes had to be re-vamped each year to accommodate construction, citizen concerns needed to be alleviated with new routes, and there was always red tape to get food, and I wanted to do my part to help them.

Heather Matthews has intentionally made the Turkey Trot a fun, casual event rather than a timed running event to encourage a sense of community and that’s exactly what she’s achieved. Participants don turkey hats, costumes, and take photos with the giant inflatable turkey “mascot”. And, as Heather says, “There’s a special feeling there that morning that you can’t explain.”

Heather also does the color run at her school and puts on youth events for her church every month, in addition to teaching Zumba three times a week. How does she do all this with her four boys? “I don’t clean my house, I have a housekeeper, and I don’t fold laundry.” What an amazing example of what can be accomplished with our re-sources and making giving back a priority! Heather and Tom can focus on their tasks the hard things are happening in the world, this event reminds her that “these are very good people.”

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**Programs**

- 91.5% / $2,558,030

**Fundraising**—2.5% / $69,907

**Administration**—6.0% / $167,392

**Expenses**

- Outside Fundraisers—1.4% / $41,829
- Bequests—2.4% / $74,591
- Special Events—4.2% / $129,843
- Grants—1.0% / $31,958
- Investments—0.2% / $5,654
- In-Kind—70% / $2,141,477

**Income**

- Individuals—11.8% / $362,191
- Businesses—8.9% / $273,319
- Grants—1.0% / $31,958
- Special Events—4.2% / $129,843
- Bequests—2.4% / $74,591
- Gifts—0.2% / $5,654

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Low-income high school students are 17% less likely to enroll in post-secondary education than their non-low income peers.**

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1,528 of K-12 students in the Issaquah School District are receiving free or reduced-price lunch. That’s 7.53% of all students.**

117 students in the Issaquah School District experienced homelessness during the 2016 academic year.**

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**Issaquah School District Feb. 2018
**2017 Issaquah Community Needs Assessment

**Tools 4 School—**Over 900 backpacks of school supplies were distributed in 2017.

**Program Partners:**
- Issaquah Schools Foundation
- Eastridge Church

**Lunch for the Break—**1,369 boxes of breakfast, lunch, and snacks distributed over the week-long breaks from school.

**Program Partners:**
- Our Savior Lutheran Church
- Issaquah School District PTSA Council

**Summer Lunch—**2,819 bags of breakfast, lunch, and snacks distributed in summer of 2017—a 62% increase from 2016.

**Program Partners:**
- Eastridge Church

**Issaquah Power Packs—**A weekend emergency feeding program that distributed 700 power packs in the first four months of the 2017-2018 school year.

**Program Partners:**
- Issaquah School District PTAs/PTSA Council
- School counselors and nurses
- Carson & Hees, PLLC

**Holiday Gift Barn—**Each December, the Pickering Barn is transformed into a mini shopping mall, allowing parents to shop for their kids for the holidays. 1,528 children received gifts through this program in 2017.

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Becky Walker, Database Specialist
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envision a hunger-free community

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Food & Clothing Bank

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