



# Sustenance

## 2024 Annual Report

*...so that no person goes hungry.*



# Thank You From Our Leaders

On behalf of the Emergency Food Network's Board of Directors and staff, we would like to thank you for supporting EFN in 2023. Your generosity was vital to our ability to provide nutritious food, funds, and technical assistance to our 75+ Partner Programs during the ongoing community hunger crisis.

In 2023, our Pierce County neighbors visited our Partner Programs an average of 224,000 times each month, a *monthly* increase of 50,000 visits compared to 2022. This unprecedented need was overwhelming, especially after our network set the previous record for most visits just last year. In the face of this crisis, we returned often to a saying from Michelle's family: *the antidote to despair is action*.

Our community took incredible action to address hunger in 2023. More than 2,200 of you volunteered with us, another 2,200 of you supported us financially, and you hosted more than 100 Food & Fund Drives. Many of you also shared EFN's mission and resources with neighbors and friends. These actions are all impactful ways to nourish our community and inoculate against despair.

Thank you for your intentional actions in support of our neighbors in need. It is through our collective actions, including yours, that we can ensure that no person goes hungry.

Be well,



Michelle Douglas  
Chief Executive Officer



Doug Baxter-Jenkins  
Board of Directors, Chair



# 2024 Leadership

## Board of Directors

### Chair

Doug Baxter-Jenkins

### Vice Chair

Ingrid Gourley Mungia

### Secretary

Susan Richards

### Treasurer

Brianne Tyler

### Members

Byron Allen

Hattie Bethke

Julie Boyd

Max Brown

Lisa Fruichantie

Sylvia James

Pete Lantz

Chad Maiuri

Renee Meschi

Sharon Snuffin

Andrea Tull Davis

Jania Watkins

Mark Winter

## Ambassador Board

### Members

Jeremy Baxter-Jenkins

Lola Elford

Lisa Lennick

Marilyn Thompson

## Statement on Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion

“At EFN we recognize and embrace the ever-changing needs of our community and are actively trying to better identify and meet those needs by ensuring equity, diversity, and inclusion in our staff, board, and partners.”

**The mission of Emergency Food Network is “to provide Pierce County with a consistent, diverse, and nutritious food supply so that no person goes hungry.”**

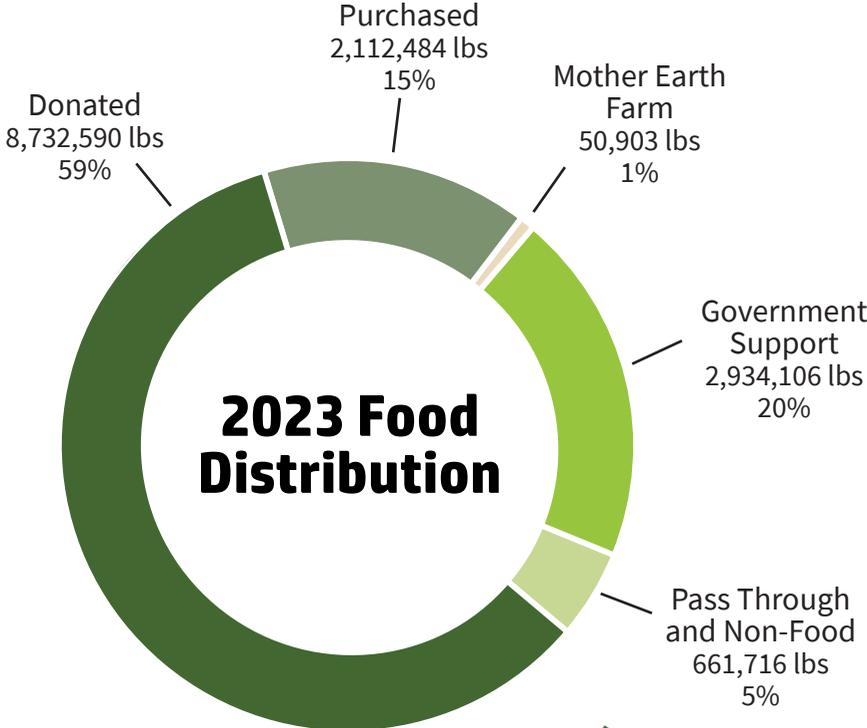


# What We Do

## General Distribution

In 2023, neighbors in need visited food pantries in our network 2,687,953 times, an all-time high and nearly twice as many visits as 2019. To meet this need, EFN distributed 14,477,856 pounds of food to our Partner Programs across the county in 2023. Over half of this food comes through donations. Some donations are truckloads from companies and farmers, while others are individual donations or community Food Drives. We also manage government contracts to connect our Partner Programs with food and funding from the Washington State Department of Agriculture and the Pierce County government. Every food source is essential, allowing us to stretch every dollar and serve our partners throughout Pierce County.

According to Feeding America, one meal in Pierce County costs an average of \$4.11. EFN leverages donated, government, and purchased food with produce from Mother Earth Farm to distribute one meal for just \$0.50. For every \$1 donated, EFN distributes 2 meals to neighbors in need.



**14 Million**

Pounds of Food Distributed in 2023



**\$903,000**

in pass-through funds to our partners



## Mother Earth Farm

EFN's Mother Earth Farm had a very successful season growing organic, high-quality, and well-loved produce to share with the community. We hosted 393 volunteers, whose contributions of 2,302 hours helped us nurture the soil and plants with the utmost care. We grew 51,000 pounds during the season, with August, September, and October as our highest-yielding months. We produced 101 varieties during the year, creating an abundance of options for pantries to provide for their customers.

We are eager to continue our cover cropping to regenerate the soil with nutrients and microbial life, and we look forward to stewarding Mother Earth Farm for another bountiful season!

## Co-op Food Purchasing Program

EFN's Co-op Food Purchasing Program is a vital part of our strategy to provide Pierce County with a consistent, diverse, and nutritious food supply. We purchase items for this program by the truckload, saving us thousands every year with the help of Repack Project volunteers.

In 2023, EFN spent \$1.2 million to purchase 1.9 million pounds of food for our Partner Programs. We choose wholesome staples such as rice, oats, pasta, canned fruits and vegetables, and canned and frozen proteins. We also procured culturally significant foods including hominy and refried beans, and bought more than 200,000 lbs. of local produce for the first time in the program's history. These new co-op items align with our focus on supporting the entire local food system, encompassing the needs of producers, Partner Programs, and food pantry customers alike.



 **51,000**  
Pounds of Food Grown  
at Mother Earth Farm



## Home Delivery

For neighbors with disabilities or limited transportation, getting to the food pantry can be nearly impossible. To bridge this gap, every week EFN's Home Delivery Program serves 250 households facing food access barriers. A team of volunteers loads their vehicles with nutritious food and delivers it across the county.

In 2023, a dedicated team of 63 volunteers completed 11,831 deliveries, totaling 418,750 pounds of food delivered to our neighbors. We purchased more than \$294,000 worth of food to provide a variety of nourishing options. Thanks to a partnership with Washington State University's Pierce County Extension, many deliveries also included nutrition education materials, such as recipes and heart-healthy tips. We were also proud to launch a pilot program for medically tailored grocery delivery in partnership with Virginia Mason Franciscan Health.

With generous support from our volunteers and partners, EFN's Home Delivery Program offers excellent nutrition and exceptional service to our most isolated neighbors.

## Break Bags

While many students eagerly await school break, others worry about how they will eat without school meals. In partnership with St. Leo's Food Connection and the Clover Park School District (CPSD), EFN's Break Bags Program provides 6,000 bags to children facing food insecurity in Tacoma Public Schools and CPSD. With a Break Bag, students can enjoy school break worry-free.

Each Break Bag weighs 15 pounds and contains easy-prepare foods like oats, canned vegetables, soup, cereal cups, applesauce pouches, and granola bars. EFN spent \$74,000 on food items for this program in 2023, and community members also hosted food drives to collect food for the Break Bags. Over 170 volunteers served 473 hours assembling the bags.

Superintendent of Clover Park School District Ron Banner reflected, "We appreciate our long-term partnership with the Emergency Food Network... When we invest in students, we invest in our future."

11,831

Total Deliveries



418,750

Pounds of Food Delivered



# Who We Serve



## Partner Programs

EFN partners with more than 75 food pantries, meal sites, and shelters across Pierce County, referred to as Partner Programs. Our partners offer excellent service and dignified food access to their customers, reaching communities from the Key Peninsula to the Mt. Rainier foothills.

We were proud to add four new partners in 2023, each one reaching and led by underserved communities in Pierce County.

- **A Common Thread (ACT)** operates mobile food pantries to increase access to farm fresh produce, with a focus on seniors.
- **Feeding Feasible Feasts (FFF)** offers community food distribution, partnering with numerous early childhood education centers all over Pierce County to get families easy access to food.
- **The Prison Scholar Fund (PSF)** supports individuals exiting the justice system by connecting them with food assistance, education, and resources to navigate the digital world. With support from EFN, PSF is proud to offer food home delivery to all community members.
- **The Multicultural Child and Family Hope Center (MCFHC)** operates a food pantry on Sundays, a time slot not widely available in our network making food accessible to working individuals and families who cannot visit a food pantry during the weekdays.

## Feedback from our Partners

“Everyone at EFN is wonderful to work with... I feel like EFN really cares about the food banks they support. You all rock!”

- Edgewood Nourish Food Bank

“We have always had very helpful service when we have needed to reach out to EFN with questions or concerns. We couldn't do it without you. Thank you!”

- Bread of Life Food Bank



75+

Partner Programs  
in Pierce County

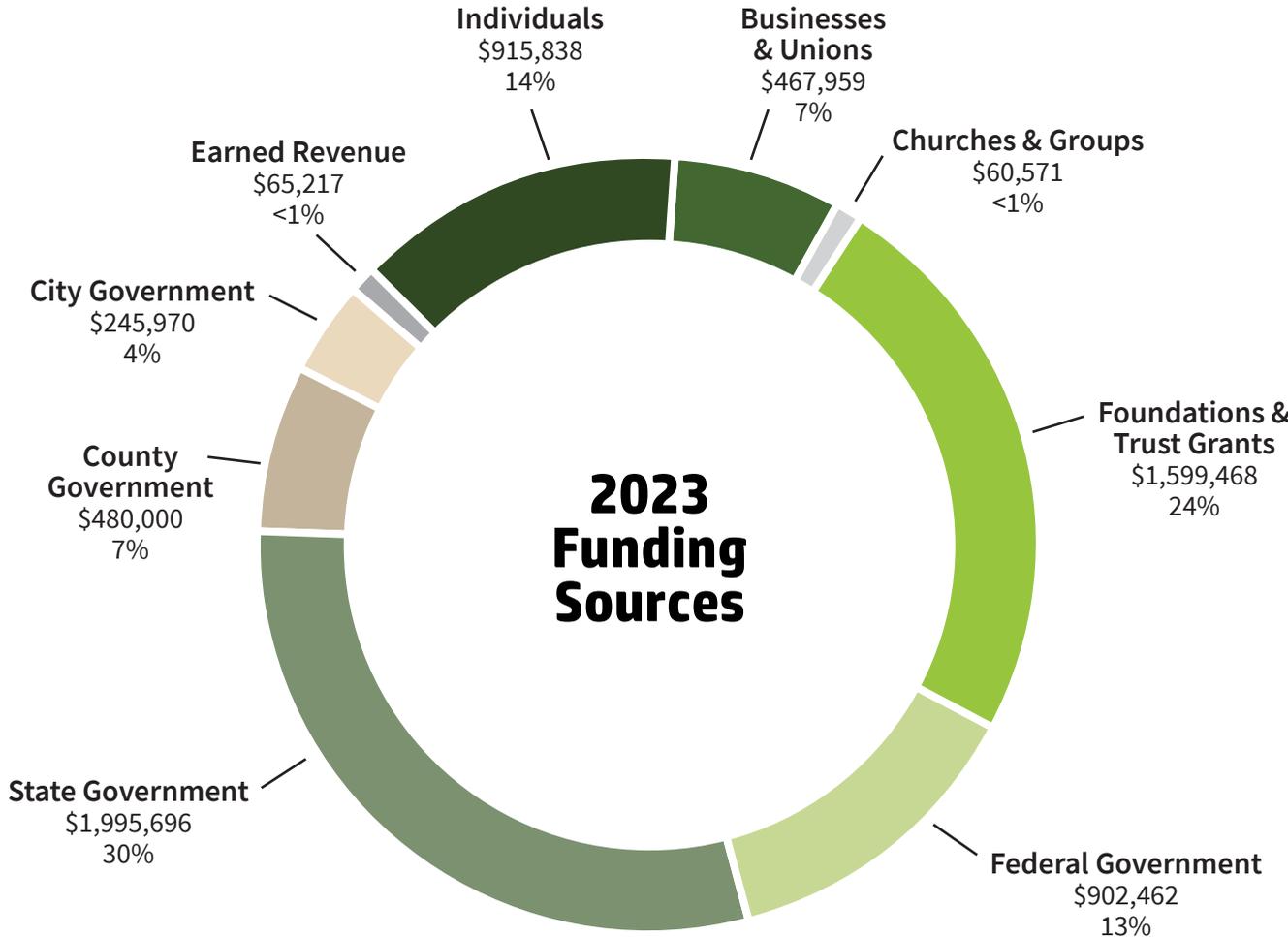


2.7 Million

Visits to our Partner  
Programs in Pierce County

Food pantry visits have doubled since 2019, reaching an all-time high

# How We Do It



## \$6.8 Million

Total Revenue in 2023

### Thank You

Thank you to all the generous donors who made gifts in 2023!

Full financials are available on our website [efoodnet.org](http://efoodnet.org).

EFN has been awarded a 4-Star Rating by Charity Navigator and Platinum Certification on Candid, formally Guidestar.



# Building for the Future

## Capital Campaign

In 2023, EFN launched the public phase of the Building for the Future campaign, a capital project to build a new warehouse on our existing campus, make improvements to our main building, and increase our storage capacity by 40%.

Thanks to an incredible outpouring of support from our community, we broke ground in the summer with a fully funded \$8.3 million project. Construction progressed rapidly, and by the end of the year, the exterior structure was completed, adding 21,780 square feet of space to our campus!

Campus-wide updates are still underway, but the new space is transforming our daily operations. Reach out to get a tour of our improved campus!



# 21,780

Square Feet of  
Added Space



# Thank you

to Coordinated Care for sponsoring  
our 2024 Annual Report!



# How You Can Help



## Volunteer

### Repack Project (Lakewood)

Help prepare bulk foods for distribution to food pantries by repackaging the product into smaller, family-sized portions. Bulk foods may include rice, pasta, oats, fruits, vegetables, and more!

### Mother Earth Farm (Puyallup)

Plant seeds, pull weeds, and harvest at our 8-acre organic farm. All skills and ages are welcome at the farm!

### Home Delivery Program

Pick up, drive, and deliver boxes full of fresh, nutritious food from EFN's Distribution Center in Lakewood to homes all over Pierce County.

### Food & Fund Drives

Raise awareness of hunger in the community while collecting donations to keep food pantry shelves stocked throughout the year.

### Partner Opportunities

Volunteer at your local food pantry to make a direct impact on hunger.

## 2023 Volunteer Achievements



2,236

Total Volunteers



887,648

Total Pounds of Food  
Repacked at the  
Repack Project



12,822

Total Hours  
Volunteered



227,500

Total Meals  
Provided through  
Food & Fund Drives

## Register to volunteer today!

Call us at (253) 584-1040

Email us at [volunteer@efoodnet.org](mailto:volunteer@efoodnet.org)

Visit our website at [efoodnet.org](http://efoodnet.org)



## Donate

### Give Funds

EFN distributes 1 meal for \$0.50. Make your donation today online at [efoodnet.org](http://efoodnet.org), call us at 253-584-1040, or mail in the enclosed envelope.

### Supper Club

Join the EFN Supper Club! Your monthly donation helps EFN plan for the year and is a convenient way for you to support our work.

### Host a Food & Fund Drive

Your donations provide variety to supplement the staple items and produce Emergency Food Network distributes to our Partner Programs.

### Leave a Legacy

By making a bequest or other planned gift to EFN, you will leave an important legacy that emphasizes your commitment to ensuring that no person in Pierce County goes hungry. Email Development Director Claire at [claire@efoodnet.org](mailto:claire@efoodnet.org) to learn more.

## Events

### Hunger Awareness Month

May 2024

### Hunger Walk

Saturday, May 4, 2024

### Letter Carriers' Food Drive

Saturday, May 11, 2024

### Abundance Dinner & Auction

Saturday, October 26, 2024

### Empty Bowls

Saturday, December 7, 2024

*New Location:* EFN's new warehouse, The Greens - 3311 92nd St. South, Lakewood, WA 98499

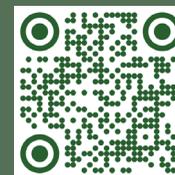
**Find more information about our giving options and events at [efoodnet.org](http://efoodnet.org).**

## Are you signed up for EFN emails?

Visit our webpage to sign up to receive EFN's monthly newsletter "The Feed," calls to action, and more!

## Social Media

Stay up to date on what's going on at EFN! Follow us on Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube!



**Donate anytime, anywhere!**