



2025 IMPACT REPORT





WHO WE ARE

Founded in 1989 by dedicated community volunteers, the Orcas Island Food Bank began as a small effort to provide emergency food assistance to neighbors in need. Over the years, as the island's population has grown and the cost of living has increased, the Food Bank has steadily expanded to meet the rising demand for food security support.

What started as basic food distribution has evolved into a comprehensive community resource offering multiple weekly distributions, fresh and nutritious foods, home and school deliveries, special dietary and culturally relevant food options, and targeted programs for children, families, and seniors.

Today, the Orcas Island Food Bank continues to adapt and grow, strengthening partnerships, increasing access, and expanding services, to ensure that everyone on Orcas Island has reliable access to the food they need to thrive.

OUR MISSION

We nourish current and future generations of our community through food access, education, and advocacy.

CORE FOOD DISTRIBUTION PROGRAMS

The Orcas Island Food Bank offers comprehensive food access programs that support individuals, families, seniors, and youth across the island.

Onsite Distribution Programs

The core of our work is grocery distribution, providing fresh produce, pantry staples, refrigerated and frozen foods. We purchase local, when possible.

Home Deliveries

We partner with local island organizations to deliver fresh groceries to community members who are homebound or otherwise unable to visit the food bank.

Weekend Packs for Kids

We provide K-12 students with healthy, easy-to-prepare meals and snacks to take home, filling the gap when school programs are unavailable through the weekend.



Teen Tent

The Teen Tent offers a welcoming space where teens can stop by for nutritious snacks and drinks during lunch.

Special Dietary & Culturally Relevant Foods

We offer Hispanic food products, gluten-free, dairy-free, and vegan options, as well as items for customers with limited or no kitchen access. We also provide ready-to-eat and microwavable meals, which staff can heat on-site for community members seeking a warm meal.

Volunteer Program

More than 50 volunteers each week make our food bank thrive from bagging groceries to sorting produce to packing pet food.

Gleaning and Grocery Rescue

Hundreds of pounds of delicious local fruit are gleaned seasonally by volunteers, staff, and generous property owners.

Orcas Island Market, the Orcas Food Co-op, and other local food distributors help close the gap on food waste by donating damaged, close to expired, or surplus goods to our organization.

Orcas Food Project

Orcas Food Project is a door-to-door system in collaboration with neighbors to collect non-perishable food items every two months.



OUR IMPACT

With your support, OIFB distributed **412,441 pounds of food** – the equivalent of **343,500 meals** – to households experiencing food insecurity on Orcas Island in 2025.



2,100 individuals from **1,160** households made



19,000 visits to the food bank

950

home deliveries



4,100

volunteer
hours



senior visits•

9,500



children &
infants visits•

8,400



*These figures include repeat visits to the food bank throughout 2025.



**This is the
best food
bank
I have ever
experienced!**

– Orcas Island Food Bank
Customer

teen tent
visits

1,550



pet meals distributed

26,000



weekend packs
for kids

1,050



*These figures include repeat visits to the food bank throughout 2025.

370

donors fueled our
mission*



15,100

pounds of
gleaned fruit



*These numbers refer to cash donors



OUR FUTURE

PEA PATCH COMMUNITY CAMPUS



The Orcas Island Food Bank is building a new home, in partnership with OPAL Community Land Trust, to serve the community more effectively now and into the future. Demand for food assistance and access to affordable housing continues to grow, and our current space limits storage, distribution, and program expansion.

The new facility will provide increased capacity, improved infrastructure, and dedicated areas for food storage, distribution, and community programs. It will also include a commercial kitchen to turn surplus food into ready-to-eat meals, support nutrition education, and strengthen local food resiliency. Designed with long-term growth in mind, the new building will allow the food bank to better respond to emergencies, collaborate with partner organizations, and ensure sustainable food access for generations to come. The Pea Patch Campus includes 20 new long-term townhome rentals with supportive services for households with reduced income.

Why does the food bank need a new building?

- Storing food in shipping containers and outdoor CoolBots reduces efficiency and creates non-optimal safety conditions.
- Space constraints limit our ability to make bulk purchases and to accept and process large donations of food.
- Our hours of food distribution are limited because much of the sorting and packaging of food takes place in the grocery store area.
- Our facilities are inadequate for production of prepared meals.
- We have insufficient access for people with limited mobility.

A Campus to Meet the Challenge:

More than 50% of Orcas Island households qualify for food assistance based on income. Recent federal policy changes have widened the gap and made access to food assistance programs more challenging for those with the greatest need.

Learn more about our capital campaign at:

<https://peapatchcommunitycampus-campaign.org/>



FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

This past year has reminded us just how essential community is, and how powerful it can be when neighbors come together to support one another.

At Orcas Island Food Bank, we continue to see growing need and extraordinary generosity. More families, seniors, and individuals are turning to the food bank for support as the cost of living on the island rises along with economic uncertainty. At the same time, our community has stepped forward in meaningful ways – through donations, volunteer hours, partnerships, and advocacy – ensuring that everyone on Orcas Island has access to nutritious food and compassionate support.

Because of you, we were able to provide fresh and local produce, support families with children through the Teen Tent and weekend programs, and consistently and reliably provide food to neighbors facing difficult circumstances. We continued to prioritize dignity and choice in our services, ensuring that everyone who walks through our doors feels welcome and supported.

Our work is about more than food. It's about stability. It's about health. It's about ensuring that no one on our island has to choose between groceries and rent, medication and meals, or feeding themselves and their family.

We know the need is not going away. In fact, we anticipate increasing demand in the coming year. But we also know that this community shows up — again and again — with compassion and commitment. Your support allows us to plan ahead, respond quickly, and continue evolving to meet the needs of our neighbors.

To our donors, partners, supporters, staff, and volunteers: thank you. Your generosity fuels every meal distributed, every program expanded, and every neighbor served.

Together, we are building a stronger, more resilient Orcas Island where everyone has the nourishment to thrive.

In gratitude,

Amanda Sparks
Executive Director
Orcas Island Food Bank





BOARD & STAFF

OUR TEAM

Amanda Sparks, Executive Director

Mary Heydron, Office Manager

Cali Bagby, Communications and Development Lead

Erika Davis, Purchasing

Asifa Pasin-Welch, Volunteer Coordinator

Emily Bennett, IT Coordinator and Communications Assistant

Kellen Comery, Warehouse and Deliveries

Jake Jensen, Staff Manager

Aerial Brown, Dry Goods

Jeff Fielitz, Produce

Mel Dickerson, Front Desk

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Rick Rhoads, President

Robert Morris, Vice President

Noel Nesser, Treasurer

Bogdan Kulminksy, Secretary

Jamie Cier, Board Member

John McNeil, Board Member

Victor Hartney, Board Member

Chris Chord, Board Member

Michael Breen, Board Member

Morry Cater, Board Member

Yesenia Valladarez, Board Member



WE ARE SO THANKFUL TO YOU, – our donors, supporters, partners, staff, and volunteers. Your generous contributions provide the resources and support to ensure that we can alleviate food insecurity on Orcas Island. Thank you!

Contact Information

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Orcas Island Food Bank is a 501(c)(3) charitable nonprofit organization registered with the Washington State Charities Program as required by law.