



ANNUAL REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY

2019-2020

MISSION

FISH is a community-building partner, demonstrating the love of Christ by connecting neighbors with food, resources and hope.

VISION

Every person in Kittitas County has:

- Access to nutritious food and a supportive community
- Opportunity for education to make healthy choices

REPORT FROM FISH'S BOARD PRESIDENT

FISH'S SEARCH FOR A BUILDING

Starting in the Fall of 2018 and throughout 2019, members of FISH's staff and the Board's Building Committee searched for a permanent location for FISH. Most of the community has been aware of our struggle to find the acreage needed for a building large enough for the Food Bank, Food Pantry and Open Table, our meal service program.

It takes a building of roughly 20,000 square feet to accommodate the Food Bank, Food Pantry, pantry reception, commercial kitchen, dining area and related offices. The challenge has been finding land in or around Ellensburg that would be convenient for FISH's clients and would accommodate a building that large along with appropriate parking.

FISH has experienced unprecedented growth in recent years and currently the Food Pantry provides groceries to more than 40% of the residents of Kittitas County. FISH's Food Bank warehouses and annually delivers nearly one million pounds of food to the five food pantries in Kittitas County. Our food service program, Open Table, serves 50,000 meals annually to the seniors, home bound and disabled residents county-wide, as well as lunches to those who need a hot meal. Serving those numbers consistently and efficiently requires a lot of space.

FISH, ELMVIEW AND KITTITAS COUNTY

When Elmview offered FISH the Eric T. Moe Building located at Bower's Field, the problem of location seemed to be solved. Originally, the building was a gift for Elmview from private citizens who raised money for construction. Built on county land, the building was ultimately deeded to Kittitas County. When Elmview no longer needed the building it had used for more than 40 years, the Executive Director and Board at Elmview felt that continued use by a not-for-profit would honor the intentions of those generous donors.

Thus, early in 2019, FISH began discussions with the county, but factors such as the proposed building use and compatibility with zoning caused the talks to stall. By summer of 2019, the Board of Commissioners had agreed to lease the building to FISH for two years to allow time for the land search to continue.

By Fall of 2019, the offices, pantry and the Food Bank were settled in the building and FISH continued to expand its programs and outreach into the county. In early 2020, the Food on the Move mobile pantry was added to serve locations in Upper County, Kittitas and the students on campus at CWU. In a collaboration with Community Health of Central Washington, FISH applied and was awarded a grant from the Molina Healthcare Foundation to fund Food as Medicine, a program that will identify patients with food insecurity and those who are able to use good nutrition to manage diseases such as diabetes or hypertension. On top of all that, at the outbreak of COVID19, FISH was asked by the Kittitas County Public Health Department to deliver hot meals and groceries to

those who were sick or quarantined. Open Table also increased its outreach to include more seniors who are homebound due to the virus.

Believing the location at the airport to be the most economical and expedient for construction of a permanent site, FISH continued discussions with the County's Board of Commissioners. By early summer of 2020, the two groups had come to a tentative agreement that would allow a long-term lease of the land, which cannot be sold, and a conveyance of the building on the land, which FISH has greatly improved since moving there. By separating the food service into the City of Ellensburg and only locating the Food Bank, Food Pantry, pantry reception and administrative offices to the airport, FISH could remain consistent with current zoning. That made the discussion of having our permanent home in that location much more feasible.

KEEPING OPEN TABLE IN ELLENSBURG

Since 2019, Open Table has operated in a rented kitchen and dining area at Calvary Baptist Church. Keeping the food service based in the City of Ellensburg has been manageable for the organization and convenient for meal delivery and other client services. Currently, FISH is searching for an 8,000 square foot building to become the permanent location for Open Table in Ellensburg. Open Table is a multi-service program that is a valued resource for the seniors in Kittitas County, as well as anyone who needs a hot meal. Under contract to Southeastern Washington Aging and Long-Term Care, Open Table provides home delivered meals seven days a week, Senior Nutrition lunches five days a week, and free lunches to anyone who is hungry, regardless of age, three days a week.



WHAT'S NEXT?

Over the past 50 years, there have been many changes at FISH, but the Food Bank, Food Pantries and Open Table are resolutely the core programs. While always remaining true to the organizational mission of “a community-building partner connecting neighbors to food, resources, and hope”, FISH has expanded in ways that are innovative and that maximize outreach and efficiency.

Collaborations and community partnerships are the foundation on which FISH was formed and continue to be the hallmark of FISH’s organizational development. Feeding the line of people in need is an important part of FISH’s mission, but that only treats the symptom. Because the challenges associated with hunger are so multifaceted, so inter-related, and often so incalculable, going beyond the temporary solution and partnering with education, health, and social services agencies is crucial. With those alliances, the power of community is unleashed to help people address the root causes of their needs.

FISH has a vision of a building located at 804 Elmview Road that will not only be a handsome addition to the Airport Business Park, but will be a hub of information and direction for anyone who needs advice. Every partner of FISH will be able to expand their reach by presenting their available services when FISH’s clients come for groceries. Kittitas County residents who are among the working poor, the elderly on a fixed income, or someone experiencing a singular, life-altering event, will find the assistance needed to navigate the maze of possibilities, applications or referrals. Our vision is a building bustling with activity, services and education.

It is an exciting time for FISH as we continue to grow in ways that fulfill our mission, add partnerships that provide innovative services and as we begin the next 50 years of service to Kittitas County

Marcus Bowman, CPA



REPORT FROM THE BOARD TREASURER

When I became Treasurer of the Board in 2018, the accounting systems had been established and FISH had a relationship with certified public accounting firm, Clifton Allen Larsen (CLA). At that time, the accounting and recordkeeping were straightforward and somewhat uncomplicated with the government grant reporting the most difficult aspect of the accounting processes.

Today, only two years later, FISH still has the government grants, but also grants from multiple other sources. The organization has increased assets, including a building and vehicles, expanded programs and added personnel. FISH now has income generated from programs and, while still relying on support from the community, is less dependent on fundraising. The past two fiscal years have ended with a surplus and the operating budget for 2019-2020 anticipates another good year.

Non-profit leadership has a difficult mandate to constantly balance money and mission, while collecting and sharing data on social and financial performance. Like most healthy not-for-profit organization, FISH operates using sound business practices, employing financial management practices that build stability and flexibility for today and the future. Well thought-out financial activities and decisions are advancing the organization's mission and developing innovative programs.

Publicly supported nonprofits such as FISH are required to file the IRS Form 990 annually. That report is open to the public and details FISH's revenues and expenses. Historically, FISH has not required an annual audit. However, FISH has recently met the threshold for government and other funding that will require an annual audit beginning in 2021.

FISH's financial activities remain transparent and CLA provides monthly financial reports, which are reviewed by the Finance Committee and summarized for the full Board at their monthly meetings. FISH's Finance Committee is comprised of board members and community members with financial backgrounds. Additionally, FISH's accounting processes and financial reports are partially reviewed and overseen by the agencies from which it receives grants including the Washington State Department of Agriculture and the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction.

As a long-standing member of the Board and as Treasurer of FISH, I can assure our community supporters that I have never been more excited about the future of this organization. Our work is not done, but with continued wise management, perseverance and stewardship, we are becoming an organization that can be a model for the nonprofit community in its financial management and transparency.

FISH FINANCIALLY THEN AND NOW

After FISH's building and most of the contents were destroyed by fire on November 28, 2014, FISH collected approximately \$669,000 in insurance monies between January 2015 and July 2017. The old building site was sold for a net of \$149,000. Of the insurance

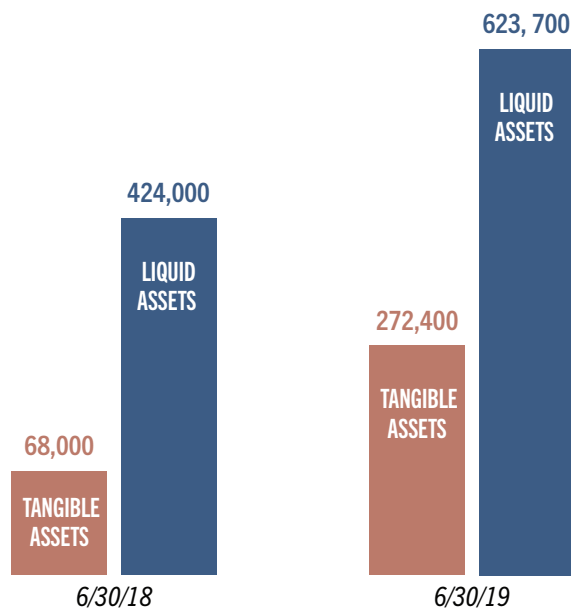
money and sale proceeds, roughly \$200,000 paid the balance on the mortgage for the destroyed building, \$250,000 was put in a reserve building fund account.

In 2018, FISH’s brokerage account became the foundation of an endowment account with restriction on use and covenants to protect the principal. That account continues to grow through the generosity of an anonymous major donor to FISH.

FISH began a targeted fundraising effort that will continue through 2021 to renovate the existing Eric T. Moe Building and add a 6,000 square foot warehouse addition. FISH is being advised in this Capital Campaign by Westby Associates, a Vancouver consulting firm experienced in fundraising that advances the missions of small not-for-profits. The anticipated \$5,000,000 needed for the building is expected to come from Foundations, legislative appropriations, individual and corporate donors, and FISH’s building fund.

Today FISH is in a sounder financial situation than ever in its history. On June 30, 2018, FISH had \$424,000 in liquid assets and approximate value of \$68,000 in tangible personal property. As of June 30, 2020, FISH has \$623,693.00 in liquid assets between its operating, reserve, and brokerage accounts, and approximately \$277,358.00 in other tangible personal property. The personal property does not reflect the \$358,000 building which FISH acquired in August, 2020. This growth is expected to continue as FISH works to support and improve our community.

Norman Redberg
 Treasurer
 Board of Directors



FISH – FIFTY YEARS STRONG

In 2021 FISH will celebrate its 50th year of service to the residents of Kittitas County. For all of those years, FISH has been and continues to be the resource for food for anyone, county-wide, who is hungry.

From the beginning, FISH has followed two guiding principles: clarity comes from using mission and vision to inform decisions about programs and the consideration of new opportunities, and that strength comes from partnerships and collaborations.

FOOD BANK AND HEALTHCARE

Working with Community Health of Central Washington (CHCW), Kittitas County Public Health Department, KVH Nutrition Department and others, FISH applied for and received a grant from Molina Healthcare. The grant will fund “Food as Medicine” a cooperative effort between FISH’s Food Bank and healthcare to identify and provide food for anyone at risk of food insecurity and to educate those with hypertension and/or diabetes about the benefits of good nutrition to manage disease. Communities who have initiated comparable joint programs have found it can result in fewer emergency room visits, lower health care costs, and a generally healthier community.

Kittitas County Health Network (KCHN) received a similar grant that funds the assessment of household and community characteristics influencing food insecurity and poor health. By agreeing to blend the KCHN Social Determinants of Health grant and FISH’s “Food as Medicine” grant, the impact on the community is greatly increased. COVID has delayed the implementation of these grants, but we are working to start before the end of 2020.



FISH CARES

Late in 2019, when FISH staff learned the organizers of Ellensburg's Christmas Baskets were unable to continue, FISH gathered a group to organize a new version. Last year, the Community Christmas served nearly 400 families and will continue in 2020 in cooperation with the Ellensburg Rotary Clubs.

When COVID19 came to Kittitas County, the County Public Health Department contracted with FISH to provide groceries and/or hot meals as needed to families and individuals who were quarantined or sick with the virus.

Open Table expanded the home delivered meals program to include seniors who were self-isolating due to the virus. So far in 2020, Open Table has provided more than 20,000 meals to county-wide homebound residents who are over 60 and/or disabled.

FISH helped the Ellensburg School District feed children when the schools closed suddenly in March, filling the gap until the School District was able to begin serving lunches.

This summer, Picnic in the Park, the OSPI/USDA summer meals program FISH facilitates in Ellensburg and Kittitas, served nearly 40,000 meals to children home from school

Thanks to a group of local and caring volunteers, FISH was able to extend the Weekend Nutrition program through the summer to provide meals for those children at risk of being hungry.

Partnering with the Kittitas Valley Ministerial Association, FISH will continue to organize and manage the Cold Weather Shelter this winter. Volunteers will receive special infection control training to prevent the spread COVID. The Shelter will be the one place those who are experiencing homelessness will be checked for COVID and anyone with symptoms will be isolated. This will be an effective barrier to preventing people who are in multiple indoor public locations each day from carrying the virus into the community.

Throughout the COVID closing of the county, FISH remained open with staff and volunteers on the front lines making sure anyone who needed food received it.



“Food on the Move” FISH’s mobile pantry began delivering food to Kittitas, Upper County and to students at CWU. Since June, the mobile pantry has distributed more than 17,000 pounds of food throughout this county.

Even during COVID, FISH’s Food Bank continues to warehouse food from government and other sources and distributes it weekly to the pantries throughout Kittitas County. Annually, a million pounds of food passes through FISH’s warehouse into the hands of the residents of Kittitas County.

FISH and the Adult Activities Center will organize and produce the Community Thanksgiving again this year. It will change to be “take out” meals only, but the festive and delicious food and spirit of community will remain the same.

Through all the growth, FISH remains a nearly all-volunteer organization. On any given day there may be as many as 20-30 volunteers working at FISH’s Food Bank, Food Pantry and at Open Table. FISH has 15 paid staff, which seasonally may rise to 25, but more than 200 active volunteers

FISH – HOME AT LAST

After 50 years, FISH sees a permanent home in its future. The vision for this building is so much more than a place to store and distribute food and house offices. It is an opportunity for FISH’s vision to come to life with a joining of social services, healthcare and academia to offer resources that address the basic needs of each client. The reasons for assistance are complicated and each person has their own story. The common thread is the navigation of the often-bewildering routes to information and resources. Creating a one-stop-shop to make the connection between clients and services expands the outreach of each organization offering assistance.

FISH’s mission involves providing food for people who are hungry. That is step one and priority one. FISH’s vision involves ending the need for services. Anyone who would like the resources, education or other tools to strengthen their families, improve their general well-being and overall enjoyment of life will find support through the social services cooperative at FISH.

For the past three years, FISH has worked to develop a strong network within the community and give the convenience and space to any agency wishing to come to FISH to educate and inform before, during and after distribution hours. Resources and information meeting people where they are to increase community outreach. This new building will finally provide the space to maximize the potential of this network.

FISH’s new home will not only offer state-of-the-art facilities for warehousing and distributing food, but it will include a pantry that is large enough to display fresh fruits and vegetables in a way that is appetizing. CWU Nutrition Department interns will be able to present food preparation demonstrations to promote good nutrition. There is space for classes and informational meetings. For example, WorkSource will be able to present versions of their job-search skills classes, Merit Resources or Youth Mentoring will have access to a private space to answer questions or give guidance. The vision is to reach and inform more people and, when possible, change the course of their lives. The possibilities are endless.

FISH – SERVING KITTITAS COUNTY

FISH's numbers are up and some days the pantry is absolutely swamped. In the past 30 days, the Ellensburg pantry alone had nearly 100 new clients and among those households were 10 babies under age three. Kittitas usage was higher. We suspect it is only the beginning as the stimulus money goes away and COVID continues to affect employment.

FISH was founded by members of the faith-based community in Ellensburg as a remedy for the problems of their neighbors throughout Kittitas County. FISH is still filled with faith and meeting those needs today. Regardless of the many ways FISH will diversify, collaborate, and expand, those who rely on FISH throughout the County will find understanding, relief and encouragement.

Peggy Morache
Executive Director



REPORT FROM THE BUILDING COMMITTEE

RECOGNIZING THE NEED FOR MORE SPACE

By 2019, FISH's Board had appointed a Building Committee and the six-member group was involved in the feasibility of a relocation of FISH's operations and offices.

During 2018 when FISH contracted to provide the food service for the Southeastern Washington Aging and Long-Term Care's programs in Kittitas County, it became clear that the organization needed a building that provided more room for operations. By then, FISH had also begun partnerships with community social services and healthcare agencies to provide resources and education for the clients who visited FISH each month. Those offerings were limited by space restrictions.

The Building Committee consists of two staff members, two Board members and two community members experienced in major construction projects. In January 2019, FISH learned that the space the organization occupied at Mercer Creek was needed for a church expansion. The work of the Committee became more urgent.

Throughout 2019, the Building Committee looked at various pieces of land in and around Ellensburg and buildings in the City of Ellensburg. In the meantime, the food service had been relocated to a rental kitchen and dining space in Calvary Baptist Church. It was becoming apparent that a food service location in the City of Ellensburg was advantageous but difficult for the Food Bank, which has nearly weekly deliveries from 18-wheeler trucks. Since the Food Bank and the Food Pantry need to be in the same location, the option of separating the food service from the other operations became a consideration.

Throughout this process, FISH's staff continued discussions with the Kittitas County Board of Commissioners about the Eric T. Moe Building located at Bower's Field. The space formerly used by Elmview for recycling needed renovation, but presented a viable option for FISH's offices, warehouse and pantry. By Fall of 2019, the Commissioners agreed to give FISH a two-year lease that would stabilize operations of the Food Bank and Food Pantry during the search for a permanent location.

THE CHALLENGE AND SOLUTION

The Building Committee worked with a realtor in Ellensburg and conducted an exhaustive search of available land in a good location for operations and clients. No parcel was found large enough to accommodate the five acres needed for all of FISH's operations and none of a size that would accommodate split operations. The airport location continued to be the one that presented the best option.

Finally, by summer of 2020, FISH and the Board of Commissioners were able to find a compromise and negotiate a 50-year lease for the land and conveyance of all improved property on the land, which included the building. There were restrictions to the sale of the land by the county which prevented a purchase by FISH.

FISH, the County, and the airport management see the benefit from this partnership. The ambitious plans for the airport include a business park specifically designed and landscaped to accommodate business offices, warehouses, and light industry. FISH's well designed and attractive new building will become an exemplary anchor for future development.

FISH'S NEW HOME

At this time, FISH is working with a team of professionals who are designing a building for the airport location, which will include new construction and a renovation of the Moe building. The new construction will consist of a warehouse for the Food Bank, a new Food Pantry, and Food Pantry reception area. The renovation of the existing building will include administrative offices, a conference/education room, and space for private consultation with clients as needed by FISH and its partnering agencies. There will be green spaces and landscaping to fit the standards of the new business park. The approximately 14,000 square foot building will be energy-efficient and include state-of-the-art Food Pantry and Food Bank according to the currently accepted best practices. The expectation is a Food Bank and Food Pantry that will become a model for the region and the state and that will serve our community for many years. After 50 years, FISH has a permanent home.

Rick Toomey
FISH Board Member
Building Committee Chair

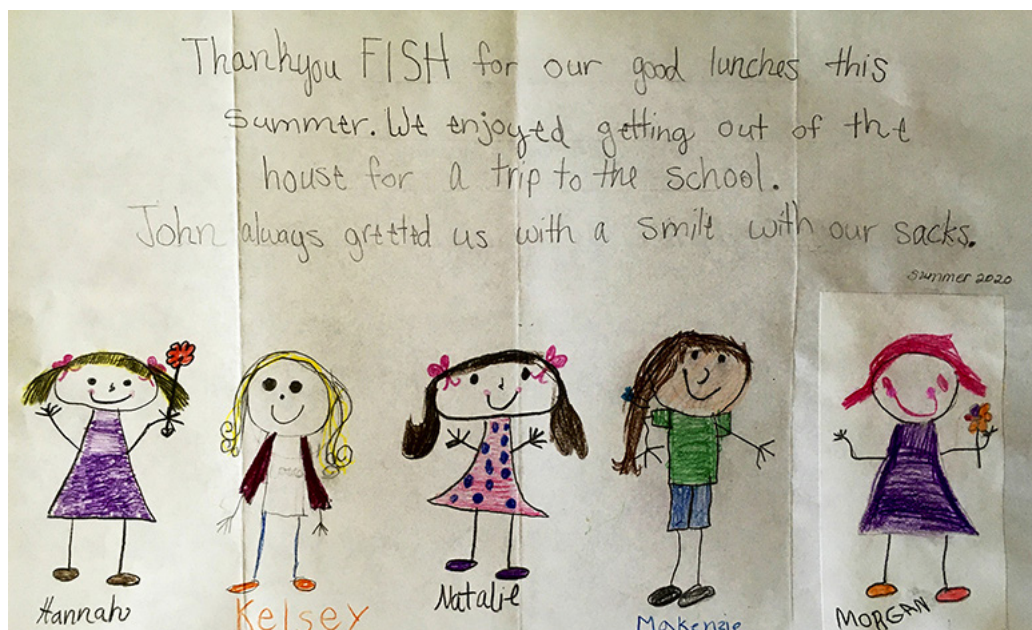


FISH'S BOARD MEMBERS

OFFICERS Marcus Bowman, CPA, President
Rick Toomey, Vice-President
Norm Redberg, Treasurer
Phil Backlund, Secretary

MEMBERS Diane Briggs
Leslie Lindsey, RN, Esq.
Chelsey Loeffers
Kevin Walsh, MD
Rick Haberman, ex-officio

Together these volunteers are the fiduciaries who steer FISH toward a sustainable future by adopting sound, collaborative, ethical and legal governance and financial management policies that continue to move FISH and its mission forward.



FISH PROGRAMS AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH

FISH FOOD BANK

Distributing more than 1 million pounds of food annually to the five food pantries in Kittitas County. Lead contractor for food shipments from government agencies and other food distributors.

FISH FOOD PANTRY

Kittitas County's only food pantry that is open Monday through Friday. A client-choice pantry that provides FISH clients to choose the food their families like.

FOOD ON THE MOVE

Mobile pantry serving Kittitas, locations in Upper County and areas of Ellensburg, including CWU students.

OPEN TABLE MEAL SERVICE

Providing more than 50,000 meals annually to seniors, the disabled and anyone who is hungry throughout Kittitas County. Contractor for the Southeastern Washington Aging and Long Term Care programs, Meals on Wheels and Senior Nutrition.

FOOD AS MEDICINE

A collaboration with the healthcare community to identify and serve those at risk of food insecurity and to help teach the ways to use good nutrition to manage diseases such as diabetes and hypertension.

PICNIC IN THE PARK

Annual program serving lunches to children through the summer break from school. The summer of 2020, this program provided nearly 40,000 meals to children in Kittitas and Ellensburg.

FOOD4ALL FARM

A community garden that is a learning tool for children and provides fresh vegetables for Open Table.

KERNEL

A program of fun activities showing children the value of good nutrition and exercise.

COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING

A partnership with the City of Ellensburg Adult Activity Center to provide Thanksgiving dinner to the community.

COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS

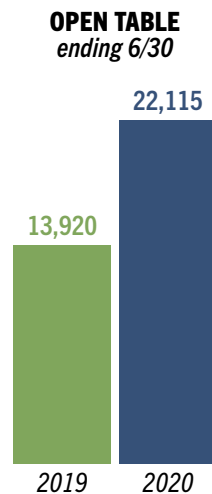
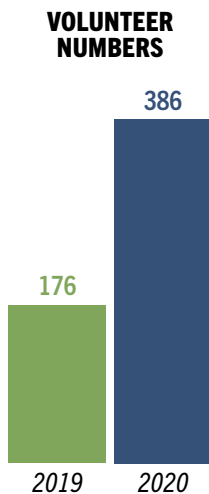
Providing gifts for children throughout Kittitas County.

BIRTHDAY BAGS

Providing “a party in a bag” for children 10 or under. Clients at the Ellensburg Food Pantry are able to request a bag that contains cake mix, icing, sprinkles, hats and other things that are perfect for a kids birthday party. There is even a small gift from FISH.

FOOD PANTRY OUTPUT

	Pounds of Food	Households	Household Members
7/1/2017 – 6/30/2018	558,698lbs	6,676	13,936
7/1/2018 – 6/30/2019	535,798lbs	5,689	13,961
7/1/2019 – 6/30/2020	560,137lbs	5,940	14,208
Total:	1,654,633lbs	Total: 18,305	Total: 42,105



FISH'S COMMUNITY PARTNERS

At FISH, we believe there is strength in numbers and the more we work together the more help is provided in this county. The trend in healthcare and social services is to take information to potential clients where they are rather than requiring the clients to come to an office or facility. FISH works with the social services and healthcare community to bring them to FISH's clients on a regular basis. This will be greatly enhanced when there is a specific space available in the new building.

The Fraternal Order of Eagles - Cle Elum (sub-contractor for Senior Nutrition)

Central Washington University

- PUSH - Executive Director is an active member of this campus organization fighting hunger.
- Nutrition Club and Department – FISH hosts interns who help with educational classes and food demonstrations. FISH also partners with the department to increase access to food within the county through their work together in KC Food Access Coalition.
- Center for Leadership – Students routinely help with meals for cold weather shelter and serve as volunteers at FISH.
- Students-FISH provides groceries for approximately 2,000 students annually and provides and a weekly mobile pantry for the students. FISH also provides internships from multiple departments and routinely works on student projects.

Community Health of Central Washington – Food as Medicine program for the county; Social Determinants of Health grant

Kittitas County Healthcare-Nutrition education and other educational programs for FISH's clients.

Kittitas County Health Network – Executive Director serves on the board and works on various initiatives that benefit the county at large. with this group.

Kittitas County Public Health Department – partners in educational programs, nutrition education, recipes, and assists in assessing the Food Pantry annually. FISH and Public Health work together on a number of initiatives that benefit the entire community, including the Food as Medicine program, and annually providing flu shots on-site at FISH

Kittitas Valley Ministerial Association – work together to manager the Ellensburg Cold Weather Shelter.

Ellensburg and Kittitas School Districts – working together to provides meals for children at risk of food insecurity through the Weekend Nutrition programs and Picnic in the Park summer program.

Churches throughout Kittitas County - For 50 years, FISH has been actively involved in the religious community in Kittitas County. Founded by the churches, FISH still works closely with the individual churches.

Rotary Clubs – partners in food drives and Community Christmas

Adult Activity Center – partners in Community Thanksgiving

League of Women Voters – annually registering clients to vote

Basic Food Program Information – FISH is the provider of DSHS Basic Food program in Kittitas County and will routinely use the new building to inform clients and register them for this program.

FISH's Organizational Affiliations:

Washington State Association of Not-for-Profits

Washington State Food Access Coalition

Kittitas County Food Access Coalition

Food as Medicine Network

Ellensburg Morning Rotary (COO membership)

Second Harvest and Washington State Department of Agriculture – partners helping FISH

Provide 1 million pounds of food to the food pantries in Kittitas County

Education Partners currently providing on-site classes at FISH or planning to provide classes in the new building are:

Youth Mentoring

Merit Resources

WorkSource – People for People

CWU – Nutrition Classes and other internships

KVH – Nutrition Classes

There are commitments from more agencies and healthcare providers when the space in the new building is available.