

ANNUAL REPORT

2021

Every person in Kittitas County has access to nutritious food, a supportive community and opportunity for education to make healthy choices.



Mission :

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



FISH'S ANNUAL REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY

Friends in Service to Humanity (FISH) was founded by the churches in Ellensburg, and our roots are in that community. However, FISH is not a faith-based organization. Our funding comes from program revenue, grants, civic organizations, and community donations. FISH is not funded by one religious community, nor does FISH ascribe to one religious doctrine. FISH is all inclusive, serving everyone who has a need.

Report from the Board Chair

January, 2022

Dear Friends and Supporters of FISH:

In 2018, FISH released its first Annual Report to the Community. In the opening letter, then Board Chair Rick Haberman, spoke of the Board's renewed focus on strategic planning and the resulting three-year plan focused on organizational sustainability. Marcus Bowman, Board Treasurer at that time, concluded his report on the many changes in accounting processes and financial goals saying, "As a long-standing member of the Board and as the 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 a little bit of perseverance and continued wise management and stewardship, we are on the verge of becoming an organization that can be a model in financial management and transparency for the nonprofit community."

That year began a new chapter in FISH's 50-year history. We had no idea how prophetic the reference to perseverance would become. Over the next three years, FISH faced challenges that included multiple administrative office relocations, a massive move of the Food Bank and Food Pantry, an extensive search for a permanent home for all of FISH's operations, and the launch of a Capital Campaign. With the ongoing support of our community, FISH met all of those challenges and is now well positioned to continue serving Kittitas County for another 50 years.

We reached our 2018-2021 strategic plan goals sooner than anticipated. Our current plan focuses on increasing FISH's impact on the residents of Kittitas County, while remaining true to our mission and vision. This plan is predicated on the belief that supplying food is a temporary solution for anyone in need; and more permanent solutions must involve the power of community working together. Food insecurity involves multifaceted, interrelated, and complex issues that are best tackled by a consistent and coordinated effort involving all providers of available resources. For that reason, FISH's strategic plan encourages growing collaborations and partnerships. Today, FISH has strong partnerships with academia, healthcare and social services agencies, all working together in new and innovative ways.

A new and extraordinary alliance between the Food Bank, Open Table, and the healthcare community has introduced a Food is Medicine model to Kittitas County. Through that pilot program, Open Table provided medically tailored meals to patients identified by Community Health of Central Washington as having out-of-control diabetes or hypertension. The evidence proved that using good nutrition to manage those diseases produced dramatic improvements. FISH continues to work with the healthcare community to increase the reach of this program.



In 2020-2021 FISH's perseverance continued, when the pandemic mandated a new way of providing food to the community. FISH and Open Table never missed a day of service, and the staff never hesitated to remain on the "front lines" of assuring food access to anyone who needed help, while at the same time following safety protocols to keep our clients, staff and volunteers safe.

The Ellensburg Food Pantry remained open, and the Food Bank continued to supply food to the other pantries throughout the County. During the worst of the pandemic, some pantries had problems staffing with volunteers. FISH then initiated our "Food on the Move" mobile pantry to fill gaps in food access for people in the most rural parts of the County, including Roslyn and Kittitas. The mobile pantry also supplied food to students who were stranded and unable to return home after Central Washington University closed the campus.

Daily, we prepared and delivered hot meals to those who are homebound or seniors who were self-isolating. Working with the Kittitas County Health Department, FISH arranged deliveries of hot meals and groceries to those who were quarantined and in need.

Another hallmark of our outreach to clients is education around the benefits of good nutrition and making healthy food choices. FISH and Open Table are working to expand that education and outreach.

I will repeat Marcus Bowman's words from 2018: I have never been more excited about the future of this organization. Our work is not done, and we will continue to persevere in combining best business practices with forging partnerships that strengthen the outreach of all involved and increase the availability of resources to anyone in need.

Rick Toomey
Chair
FISH Board of Directors

OFFICERS

Rick Toomey, Board Chair
Diane Briggs, Vice-Chair
Norm Redberg, Treasurer
Phil Backlund, Secretary

MEMBERS

Gary Berndt
Sabrina Fuentes
Kevin Walsh, MD
Marcus Bowman, ex-officio
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's Board Members

Board Treasurer's Report

FISH and Open Table continue to grow by adding innovative programs that provide a more holistic approach to services. Many of their programs are funded through grants or fee-for-service contracts that have become an integral part of organizational stability and financial viability.

Nonprofit organizations that are financially successful use sound business practices just like any other successful for-profit business or corporation. Many people believe the myth that nonprofits are managed differently, but the main difference in the two is how they handle a surplus (profit) at the end of the year. Nonprofit organizations use a surplus to expand, enlarge or enhance programming—basically, to further the mission of the organization.

For the first time in FISH's 50-year history, our financial management practices have resulted in a surplus for the past three years. These funds have been faithfully used for FISH programming, resulting in many of our recent achievements. FISH's financial growth has allowed fundraising to become targeted toward offsetting the operational expenses of programs that are not fully funded. For example, FISH does one major annual appeal at the holidays, and additional fundraising around Community Thanksgiving, Community Christmas and the children's programs, Picnic in the Park and Weekend Nutrition, which assure children at risk of food insecurity are eating when school is not in session. Those programs fill a serious county-wide need, but have grown to the point that current funding does not match that need. The generosity of the community keeps them alive.

Program development continues to be mission-driven. We look at our growth strategically, ensuring it fills a need in the community and contributes to the financial health and viability of FISH's future. This strategic management has enabled FISH to move from a struggling charity dependent on constant fundraising to a financially sound organization operating with a surplus. Our net assets have grown from \$471,141 in 2016, to \$1,650,000 at the end of our 2020-21 fiscal year.

We continue to grow.

In 2021, FISH negotiated to purchase the Rodeo City BBQ building on Main Street. We will close the purchase in early in 2022. The sale price for the building was \$875,000, with the owner crediting a \$25,000 donation against the purchase. FISH will use our 2019-2021 budget allocation, awarded by the State of Washington, to pay \$756,560 toward the purchase, with the remaining \$93,440 paid through a 10-year mortgage. This purchase is a critical business move. It increases our organizational assets and provides a place for food service operations, thus ending our dependence on rental space for a program vital to the community and important to FISH's consistent income.

The Capital Campaign started three years ago is nearly complete. The Campaign was initiated to end FISH's nomadic presence in the community. Initially, the goal was \$5.2 million for a new and larger Food Bank, more space for the Food Pantry, and a permanent location for the food service kitchen and dining space.



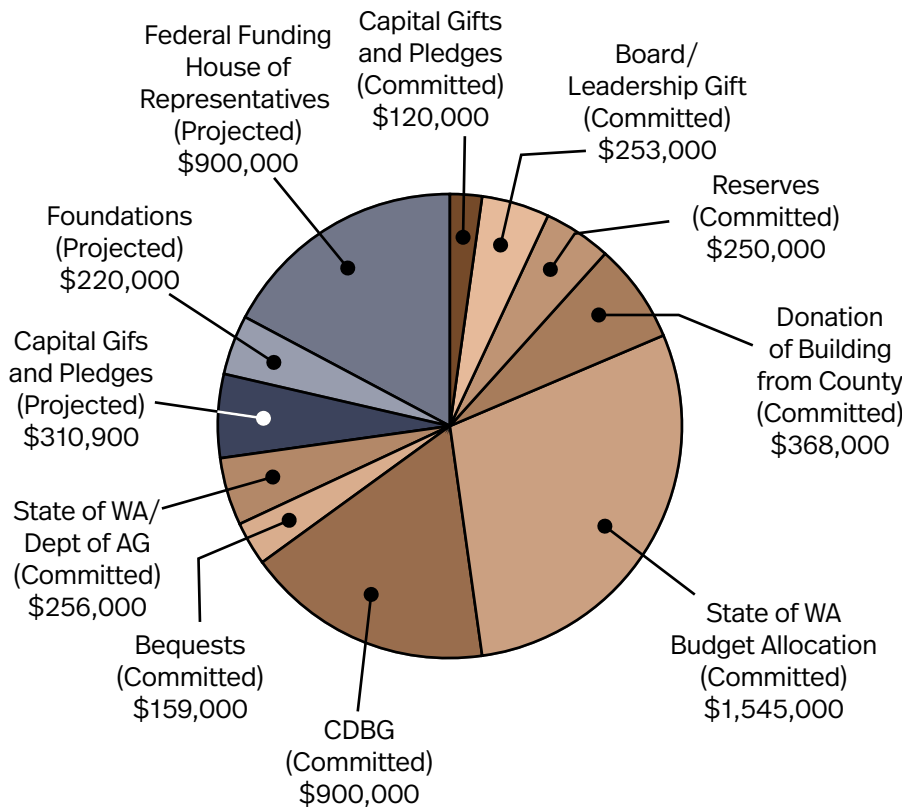
The purchase of the Rodeo City BBQ building provided the home for food service operations and offices for staff. The Campaign now focusses on the remaining \$4.3 necessary for the Food Bank and Food Pantry expansion at the Elmview Road site. Our vision for this expanded facility is exciting and the Executive Director speaks more to that vision in a look to the future later in this report.

The Capital Campaign funds have come from multiple sources, including pledges and donations from the community-at-large, State of Washington 2019-2021 and 2021-2023 budget allocations, a Community Development Block Grant, bequests, and projected funding from foundations and government earmarks. The chart below shows clearly how the money has been raised and how much is left until FISH meets the goal.

The support of the community is crucial to the continued financial well-being of FISH. It is essential that everyone in Kittitas County can trust the organization to be good stewards of donations and all other income. As a board member and as Treasurer of the board, I am proud of FISH and Open Table, and the organizational commitment to transparency and integrity in doing business.

That knowledge is why I join the entire Board of Directors in making a monthly donation for operations and a pledge to the Capital Campaign to provide a permanent home for this valuable resource in Kittitas County.

Norm Redberg
Board Treasurer



Funding Plan as of 1/1/2022
CAMPAIGN GOAL: \$4,325,000

Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow

I started my tenure at FISH in 2016. At that time, the Food Bank and Food Pantry shared a 2500 square-foot, cramped space that was filled to capacity with food. The four, and sometimes five, staff members worked in an office of less than 1,000 square feet. The cooks used a kitchen that had a broken stove and a household-size refrigerator, and they still fed 30-40 people each weekday. We loved it there, and were very grateful to Mercer Creek Church for sharing their location with us.

My first two years at FISH were reasonably calm, and mostly business as usual. In 2018, FISH signed a contract with SE WA Aging and Long-Term Care to provide meals county-wide for their Senior Nutrition and Home-Delivery programs. From then until now, it seems as if we grabbed the tail of a comet are still soaring.

The food service contract was a turning-point that changed FISH's future. This was the first of the contracts that moved FISH away from dependence on fundraising and toward financial stability through consistent revenue flow. The future financial impact of the contract, the need for a larger kitchen combined with Mercer Creek's desire to expand their campus, pushed FISH into the search for a stable location for operations.

Today, four years later, FISH and Open Table have their own buildings--space for expanded services to our clients, for program support staff offices, and space to foster creativity in developing and enlarging programming.

We believe that the fundamental measure of our value is our impact on the community over the long term. That value is a direct result of our ability to extend and solidify our services for the future. FISH's staff and board are committed to making decisions that consistently reflect that focus. We measure ourselves in terms of our services and our impact on others. FISH's mission and vision are the litmus test given to any decisions around enlarging or improving services. Is the intention to provide "food, resources and hope" to those in need? Does this concept assure "access to nutritious food, a supportive community, and opportunity for education to make healthy choices?" If the answer to any of those questions is yes, then we begin to consider compatible partnerships that may advance those goals.

FISH is nearing the end of an ambitious capital campaign that has funded the purchase of a food service building, and will fund the expansion and renovation of the Food Bank and the Ellensburg Food Pantry. FISH's vision for both buildings is consistent with the focus-toward-future that guides our organizational decisions. These two buildings will be resources for anyone who wants to build more productive habits and improve their quality of life. Community partners will use the buildings to expand their outreach by meeting people where they are. When clients come for meals or to grocery shop, they will have access to information or education about the resources available to them and methods that may help improve their welfare. An ongoing mentoring program is available to build relationships that aid in overcoming obstacles that limit a person's potential. Cooking classes and nutritional education will be offered as convenient



and fun activities to successfully incorporate wellness into the lives of people of all ages, especially children and seniors. We want these buildings to be a hub of activity and support for anyone who wants help.

AT FISH, we recognize there will always be life events that result in people needing resources and support. When that happens, we are here to help. It still does not stop us from aiming at a time when our clients no longer need us. When that happens, we have succeeded.

FISH has changed dramatically in the past five years. Community Food Bank is part of what we do, but it does not define the multiple and complex services we provide for the community. Rebranding ourselves to better describe our services has become a recurring topic for our Board. It is a complicated process that will require much thought and planning.

Finally, I will express our gratitude to all who have supported and continue to support FISH through this period of reimagining ourselves. Thanks to our clients who have been flexible and trusting through moves and changes; thanks to our staff who always perform with integrity and assure the high-quality of our work; thanks to grantors and funders who believe in our work; and thank you, to the community of supporters, including the residents of Kittitas County and, local, state and federal representatives, who have never failed to help and encourage us.

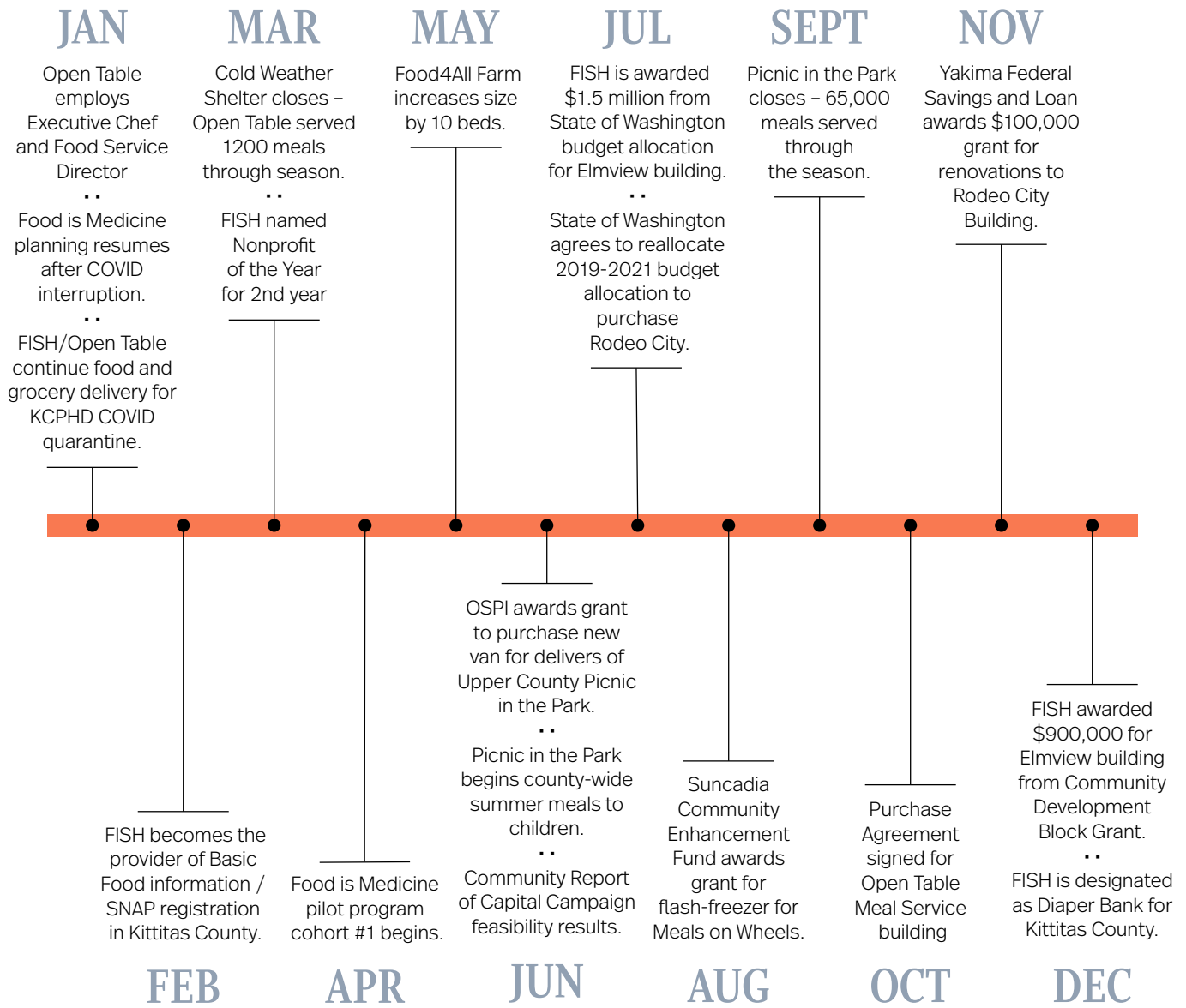
It takes all of us to work toward ending hunger in Kittitas County and, together, we will continue that journey.

Peggy Morache
Executive Director
FISH Food Bank, Food Pantries
Open Table Meal Service



2021

The past five years at FISH have seemed like “grabbing the tail of a comet” and a month-by-month timeline for 2021 is a great example of why that image comes to mind.



Family: My husband and I have 3 children from 15 to 5 months. We aren't qualified for welfare help because our gross income is a little over the limit. While pregnant, we had a few serious medical emergencies and thought our unborn baby's life was at risk. Emergency room visits and twice-monthly ultrasound services really started adding up on our high deductible medical insurance, causing some pretty tight cash flow problems for our family. FISH was there. In April when our baby was born, she was life-flighted and in NICU for 8 days. I was now also on maternity leave. The Washington PFMLA was so nice to have but was only a portion of my income. When the \$40k life-flight bill, \$10k Emergency room bill, \$55k NICU bill and ambulance bill came in.. we had another cash flow issue. FISH was there. We never had to go hungry. We don't use it on a regular basis, but are SO GRATEFUL it's there when we have times of need. THANK YOU FISH!

Everyone at FISH is so helpful and kind and friendly. Asking for help when you need it is a marker of character strength. Everyone needs a friendly hand to boost and support us once in a while.

Single Parent: When my children were 3 and 6 years old my husband left us. I decided to go to college and get a teaching degree. There were times while I was in school that FISH was the reason I was able to put food on the table for my children. I used the food pantry many times during my years as a student and we even did the Picnic in the Park many times. The turkey giveaway was always great and provided us with a way to celebrate Thanksgiving even when I was struggling financially. It has been years since I graduated from CWU with my teaching degree but I will always be grateful for the way FISH helped me during my time of need.

The people at FISH are super helpful and kind. I would encourage anyone in need to reach out to FISH because they will truly help!

Student: The first time going to the pantry I was a little nervous because I didn't know how everything worked but the staff was super friendly and helpful! I was struggling for a while and couldn't afford groceries and FISH made it possible for me to have homecooked meals.

Meals on Wheels Anecdotes (shared on FB): Yesterday, the son of one of our Meals on Wheels clients stopped by to bring us a donation. He shared that our help, in providing meals and checking in on his mom while he is at work has made it easier for him to be at work. He shared that she has very mild dementia symptoms and leaving her for an entire day makes him uneasy. Knowing that we will be knocking at her door mid-day and providing a lunch she loves gives her something to look forward to and eases his mind.

2021 Collected Stories



FISH Services and Community Outreach

GROCERIES

FISH FOOD BANK, ELLENSBURG FOOD PANTRY, DIAPER BANK, FOOD ON THE MOVE MOBILE PANTRY

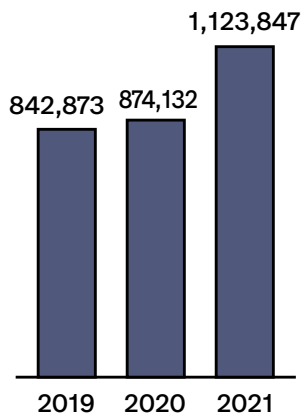
FISH is the only Food Bank in Kittitas County and it distributes more than 1 million pounds of food to the four food pantries located in the County—Cle Elum, Easton and the two in Ellensburg. Although “food bank” and “food pantry” are often used interchangeably, they are very different. A food bank does not serve the public directly, but supports a group of sub-contracting food pantries. Through a contract with the Washington State Department of Agriculture, FISH is also able to underwrite the monthly expenses of the sub-contacting food pantries.

FISH’s Ellensburg Food Pantry is the largest pantry in the County and the only one open Monday through Friday. A client-choice pantry, clients shop for the food their families enjoy. More than 40% of the residents of Kittitas County rely on FISH for groceries. The Ellensburg Pantry provides “Birthday Bags” for parents who are planning parties for children ages 0-10. The bags contain everything that’s needed for a party, including a small gift from FISH.

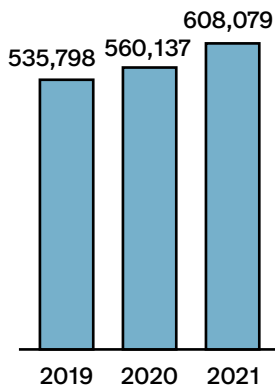
FISH’s Food on the Move mobile pantry take groceries into some of the most rural areas of the County and is the only food pantry serving the city of Kittitas. The mobile pantry also serves Central Washington University students and the patients at Community Health of Central Washington.

FISH has become the Diaper Bank for Kittitas County through a grant from the Washington State Department of Commerce. The Ellensburg Pantry will routinely stock diapers, formula, ointments, oils and other baby essentials to take those expensive burden from parents.

Food Bank Pounds Of Food Distributed To County Pantries



Ellensburg Pantry Pounds Of Food Distributed



Nutrition Education

FISH’s Ellensburg Pantry uses the nationally recognized nutrition education program, Supporting Wellness in Pantries (SWAP) to encourage clients to make healthy food choices. The pantry shelves are color coded to indicate the healthiest choices. Green indicates eat as much and as often as wanted, means choose carefully, and red is a special occasion food. No one is policing client choices, but it is one way FISH is including education into grocery services.

OPEN TABLE MEAL SERVICE

Located in the heart of Ellensburg, Open Table operates the SE WA Aging and Long-Term Care county-wide Meals on Wheels on Wheels and Senior Nutrition programs serving those who are 60 and older. When concerns about COVID no longer prevent congregate meals, Open Table will resume serving a free lunch to anyone who is hungry Monday through Friday.

Open Table offers a hot meal November through March in conjunction with the cold weather shelter. Beginning in 2022, those meals will be available for those experiencing homelessness at lunch Monday through Friday and will not be affiliated with the Cold Weather Shelter.

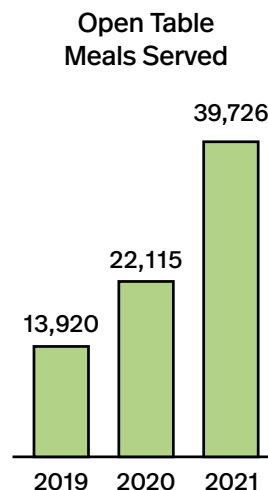
The Open Table location offers meeting rooms and banquet services. Kitchen rentals are available as an incubator service for food service entrepreneurs who are starting a business.

Open Table’s Food Service Director and Executive Chef works closely with a Registered Dietician to assure that meals are flavorful and nutritious. Good nutrition is integral to helping seniors keep their independence and Open Table is committed to providing good food from locally sourced ingredients.

Healthy Table is a home-delivered meal service based on the Food is Medicine model. Menus are created to manage diseases with good nutrition. The menus are created by Open Table’s Executive Chef and reviewed by a Registered Dietician. This is a fee-for-service program, except for Community Health of Central Washington patients who receive a prescription for the service. The pilot program in 2021 demonstrated the positive impact of using good nutrition to manage and discourage diseases such as hypertension and diabetes.

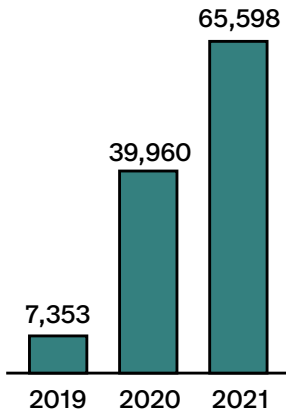
Holistic Approach to Services

Open Table’s Meals on Wheels volunteer and staff drivers are trained to watch for the mitigating factors that affect an individual’s health. Rather than simply handing our clients a meal each day, the drives keep watch for things that may need repair in the home or a change in the client’s demeanor or actions that could indicate a need for attention. The drivers report anything that is concerning to a coordinated care specialist and action is taken if needed. The report and result are recorded in the client’s file. It is part of FISH’s philosophy to take a holistic approach to services for all clients.



FISH Services and Community Outreach

Picnic In The Park Meals Served



SPECIAL PROGRAMS

Grocery and meal services are FISH’s core programs. FISH has numerous ancillary programs that fit within its mission and have an impact on the entire county.

Children’s Programs

Picnic in the Park provides breakfast and lunch to children throughout Kittitas County during the school break in the summer. In 2021, FISH distributed 65,000 meals to children in Upper and Lower Kittitas County.

Weekend Nutrition for Kids is a year-round program providing food for 1200 children identified by the school districts as food insecure over the weekends.

KERNEL or Kids Eating Right Nutrition and Exercising for a Lifetime is a kids program that FISH brought to Kittitas County in 2019. It is a farmers’ market-based program that uses fun activities to teach children about the benefits of good nutrition and exercise. Using games that connect the origin of food, the joy of growing and harvesting food, and the relationship between food and all aspects of nature, this program entertained and education more than 1400 children during its debut summer. During COVID it has been a virtual and outdoor only program.

Growing Our Own

Food4All Farm located at the Elmview building produces nearly 1,000 pounds of produce each growing season. The produce is used for Open Table’s meal programs and the balance supplements the produce in the pantries. FISH’s goal for Food4All is to strategically increase its size and production until it is the source of produce for the meal service. Currently, it is fresh vegetables only, but eventually it will supply honey and fruit, as well.

Holiday Services

Open Table provides Thanksgiving meals through its Senior Nutrition and Meals on Wheels services. For the past several years, Open Table’s staff have prepared and served a Community Thanksgiving dinner for Ellensburg. The Ellensburg Food Pantry provides turkey and the traditional trimmings for clients and sends turkeys to the Eagles Club in Cle Elum, which is FISH’s sub-contractor providing meals to seniors in Upper County.

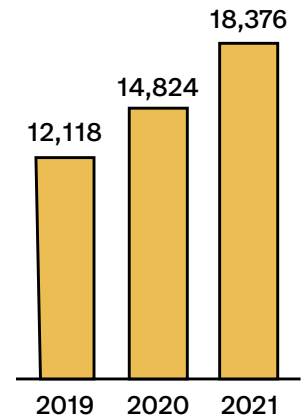
Community Christmas is a service provided by FISH in partnership with the Ellensburg Rotary Clubs. The program solicits adopters for seniors and children in need in Ellensburg. In 2021, more than 800 children and seniors received their Christmas gifts through this program.

VOLUNTEERING

FISH and Open Table are nearly all volunteer organizations. The volunteers needed to keep FISH operating outnumber staff ten-to-one. When Open Table is operating a full capacity, there are 30-40 volunteers are work each day in both of FISH’s locations.

Volunteering at FISH is easy and rewarding. We accommodate individual schedules to the best of our ability and try to match individual interests with volunteers jobs. For more information about volunteer opportunities, please call the Volunteer Coordinator at 509-925-5990 extension 802 or email volunteering@kvfish.org.

Volunteer Hours

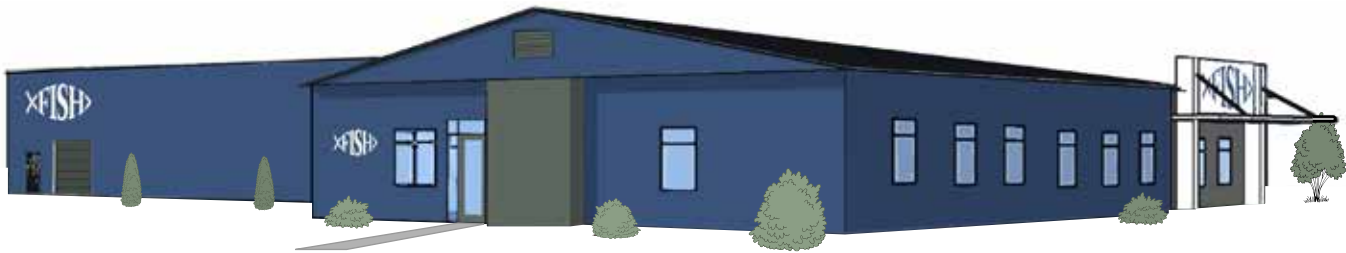


In Kittitas County we’re not all the same and that’s our greatest strength. At FISH we celebrate our diversity, the differences in who we are, what we’ve experienced, and how we think. To provide services that benefit everyone, we know we must be sure we are including everyone. We stay true to our mission by ensuring that FISH is home to anyone who needs groceries, a meal or a friend.

“You Belong” are two words we live by at FISH and Open Table. We offer a promise to our staff that their unique perspectives, backgrounds and ideas are embraced in our culture of innovation. We pledge to our clients that their experiences, values and lifestyles will be respected and honored.

A Culture of Dignity, Honor and Respect

From the Construction Project Manager



I joined FISH's Board of Directors in 2015 and, because I wanted to better understand the operations, decided to volunteer in the food bank and pantry. I was asked to become part of the Building Committee when it was formed in 2018. When the decision was made to search for land or a building for FISH's operations, the Executive Director asked me to join the staff as Deputy Director in charge of Operations and Project Manager for the new construction. I eagerly accepted and saw a chance to use my Engineering degree from West Point to benefit the construction of a long-awaited new home for FISH. I've been part of the tumultuous times of the building/land search, the review of potential renovations of multiple buildings throughout Ellensburg, and the upheavals of various relocations of offices, and massive relocations of the food pantry and food bank. Through all of it, the question I am asked most often is, "Why does FISH need such a large space for a Food Bank?"

The answer is simple: FISH has never had adequate space to support receiving, storing and distributing over 1 million pounds of food each year to the pantries located throughout Kittitas County. For five years the community saw FISH's Food Pantry and Food Bank housed in a small space at Mercer Creek Church and assumed it provided sufficient space. It was not even close, but at the time, FISH was not in a financial position to consider a relocation to a building of its own. An ambitious capital campaign and restructuring of revenue sources for FISH has resulted in money to building the expanded Food Bank warehouse and renovate the Elmview Building.

The vision for the Food Bank expansion and Food Pantry renovation:

- One stop shop for anyone who needs help.
- Expanded Food Bank warehouse with state-of-the-art materials handling equipment.
- Office space in the warehouse for the Food Bank and Food Pantry staff and volunteers.
- Reception area with space for educational programs on a wide-range of topics, such as job search skills, parenting skills, fiscal responsibility and healthy lifestyle habits.
- Space for partner organizations to present to clients before, after, and during distribution.
- Space for education on the benefits of good nutrition and healthy food choices.
- Larger more appealing grocery shopping area.
- More room for nutrition information and recipes to encourage healthy food choices.
- More space for culturally specific food.
- Offices for each FISH program.

The possibilities for outreach are limitless and FISH intends to encourage active use of the building.



When zoning complications made it impossible to complete plans to add a commercial kitchen and dining service to the Elmview Road expansion, FISH doubled efforts to find a workable location in Ellensburg. Renting a kitchen and dining space did not accommodate growing Open Table's programs and services and was not sustainable for Senior Nutrition programs that continued to grow.

The Building Committee members toured every available restaurant, and any available building large enough to allow an addition of a commercial kitchen. One by one, each was ruled untenable for the food service operations. The cost to renovate an existing building was prohibitive and finding one that had the amount of parking needed for the Senior Nutrition and Open Table lunch programs was impossible.

Then, early in 2021, FISH heard that Rodeo City BBQ building may be available. After touring the building, it was clear that the it was perfect and presented the possibility of a turnkey operation. Open Table could move into the building and begin meal service immediately. The kitchen needed renovation for Open Table production-style of meal preparation, but that could come later. The talks began in Spring of 2021 and FISH will close on the purchase early in 2022.

The vision for the Open Table at Rodeo City building is:

- A hub for education adults and children to learn about good nutrition and for classes that teach the skills needed to prepare healthier meals.
- A center for culinary arts, including incubator services for food entrepreneurs, and instruction classes for those seeking work in food service.
- A community resource for cooking classes on a wide range of subjects such as proper use of kitchen knives, how to grill perfect vegetables or make the perfect soufflé.
- A resource for healthcare to present the benefits of good nutrition in managing or fighting diseases such as diabetes and hypertension.
- An opportunity to disguise education about the benefits of good nutrition and exercise as fun, lively activities for children and ultimately introduce more fruit and vegetables into their diet.

Jeff Duncan
Deputy Director
Construction Project Manager
FISH and Open Table

FISH Community Partners

At FISH and Open Table, we believe that partnerships and collaborations are the way to create a stronger and better community. Working together to provide a wider pool of resources is the way non-profits achieve shared goals, build new programs and strengthen existing ones, extend their reach, and advance their missions. When two or more organizations come together to achieve a common goal, the chances of achieving that goal increases exponentially. Partnerships and collaborations maximize results by including new and diverse perspectives.

FISH and Open Table are proud of their partnerships and work closely with all of the following organizations on various projects that benefit our entire County. With the completion of the Elmview building renovation, our partnerships are expected to grow.



Basic Food - Department of Social and Health Services

FISH is the provider of Basic Food information and SNAP registration for the Department of Social and Health Services.

Information on community and business development.

Central Washington University

Center for Leadership – Student volunteers for Open Table and FISH.

FISH Food Pantry and Diaper Bank – provides food to approximately 2200 CWU students and will provide diapers beginning in January 2022.

Food on the Move Mobile Pantry – Food delivery to CWU students.

Nutrition Department – FISH and Open Table host interns in all areas of programming.

CWU Athletic Teams – volunteers through the year

PUSH – FISH is an active member of the campus organization fighting hunger.

Churches County-wide

FISH was founded by members of the Ellensburg churches in 1971. Since then, the churches throughout the county have been active supporters of all of FISH's programs.

Community Health of Central Washington

Ongoing partnerships that includes introducing the Food is Medicine model to Kittitas County, providing a mobile pantry on-site for patients, working on various projects with the Family Medicine Residency program. FISH expects this partnership to grow as space becomes available for health related education and levels of care on FISH's campus.

Ellensburg Adult Activity Center

Partners in reaching senior population and providing relevant services.

Kittitas County Chamber of Commerce

FISH and Open Table support the work of the Chamber and provide a site for the Leadership program annually.



Kittitas County Farmers' Market

Home for FISH's KERNEL program for children. FISH is recipient of left over market produce each week.

Kittitas County Health Network

FISH is represented on the Leadership Council and Board of Directors as well as supporting initiatives sponsored by the Network.

Kittitas Valley Ministerial Association

FISH is an active member of the association. Open Table provides lunch annually for the association and provide meals for the participants of the KVMA sponsored cold weather shelter.

League of Women Voters

FISH provides a location for voter registration each year and works with the League to provide voter information.

Mothership Collective

Partners in multiple programs to assure fresh, locally grown produce is available to everyone in Kittitas County.

Rotary Clubs – Kittitas County

FISH and Open Table work with the four Rotary Clubs in Kittitas County on multiple projects, including Community Thanksgiving, Community Christmas, Operation Harvest, and many others each year.

School Districts

Cle Elum-Roslyn School District, Easton School District, Ellensburg School District, Kittitas School District and Thorp School Distirict

Partners in Picnic in the Park summer meal program and Weekend Nutrition for Children. Both programs provide food for children at risk of hunger when school is not in session.

Second Harvest

Helping FISH provide 1.2 million pounds of food to the pantries in Kittitas County.

SE WA Aging and Long-Term Care

Contracts with FISH and Open Table to provide the Senior Nutrition and Home Delivered Meals programs for Kittitas County.

Social Services Agencies

Elmview

Merit Resources

People for People / Worksource

Youth Mentoring



FISH Community Partners



Sub-Contractors for FISH and Open Table

Fraternal Order of Eagles – Contract to provide Senior Nutrition in Upper County

FISH Food Bank Sub-contractors:

Apoyo Food Pantry

Cle Elum Food Pantry

Easton Food Pantry

FISH's Food Pantry

Organizational Affiliations/Memberships

Ellensburg Morning Rotary – COO membership

Food is Medicine – National Network

Food is Medicine – Regional Network

Kittitas County Food Access Coalition

KittFam

Meals on Wheels America

Washington State Association of Not-for-Profits

Washington State Food Access Coalition

Governmental Agencies

Kittitas County Public Health Department

FISH and Open Table collaborate with the KCPHD on educational programs that teach the benefits of good nutrition and exercise, especially for children. FISH was under contract with KCPHD to provide groceries and/or hot meals to those in need who were quarantined due to COVID. KCPHD provides FISH with a periodic assessment of the Food Pantry and has helped improve the presentation and selection of food.

Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction

Partner to produce the summer meals program for Kittitas County

Washington State Department of Agriculture

Contract with FISH to provide the Food Bank in Kittitas County. Supports FISH through multiple grants for equipment and other program supplies.

Washington State Department of Commerce

Partners with FISH to provide the Diaper Bank for Kittitas County. Facilitates the budget allocations from the State, as well as the Community Development Block Grant.

2021 Program Grants

Catholic Charities Rice Bowl

Coordinated Care Healthcare

Greater Columbia Accountable Community

Molina Health Care

Suncadia Community Enhancement Fund

Seattle Foundation
Tew Foundation
United Way of Central Washington
Washington State Department of Commerce – Diaper Bank
Yakima Federal Savings and Loan
Yakima Valley Community Foundation

Elected Officials

The Honorable Patty Murray
Senator
The Honorable Kim Schrier
House of Representatives
The Honorable Judith Warnick
Washington State Senator
The Honorable Tom Dent
Washington State House of Representatives
The Honorable Alex Ybarra
Washington State House of Representatives



Kittitas County Board of Commissioners

Laura Osiadacz, Chair
Brett Wachsmith
Corey Wright

City of Ellensburg

Heidi Behrends-Cerniwey
City Manager
Nancy Lillquist
Mayor

Members of the City Council

Rich Elliott
Nancy Goodloe
David Miller
Bruce Tabb
Adam Winn

