

**Agency: Commerce, Community and Economic Development**

**Grants to Named Recipients (AS 37.05.316)**

**Grant Recipient: Fairbanks Community Food Bank**

**Federal Tax ID: 92-0088266**

**Project Title:**

# Fairbanks Community Food Bank - Computer Upgrade, Utility Assistance and Refrigeration Improvement

**State Funding Requested: \$ 50,000**

**House District: 10 - E**

One-Time Need

**Brief Project Description:**

Food bank warehouse computer upgrade, utility assistance and refrigeration improvement

**Funding Plan:**

**Total Cost of Project: \$50,000**

<u>Funding Secured</u>		<u>Other Pending Requests</u>		<u>Anticipated Future Need</u>	
<i>Amount</i>	<i>FY</i>	<i>Amount</i>	<i>FY</i>	<i>Amount</i>	<i>FY</i>
There is no other funding needed					

**Detailed Project Description and Justification:**

Requested funding will be used to improve the computer system and to assist in the enormous increases we are facing with utilities increases (estimated to be nearly \$24,000 more than in 2006). Funding will also be used for installation of refrigeration controls which will increase the efficiency of operations of that equipment.

The Fairbanks Community Food Bank makes a difference in the lives of neighbors by sharing resources. The generous people of Fairbanks truly live the lessons taught by the Stone Soup Legend-Fairbanks Style.

Founded in 1982, the Fairbanks Community Food Bank collects and redistributes donated food to individuals and agencies. Food donations are received from the local community and about 100 commercial vendors. Food is distributed through many programs including Food Boxes, Bone Builders, and Agency Shopping.

**Project Timeline:**

The expenditures are expected to occur in 2008.

**Entity Responsible for the Ongoing Operation and Maintenance of this Project:**

Grant Recipient

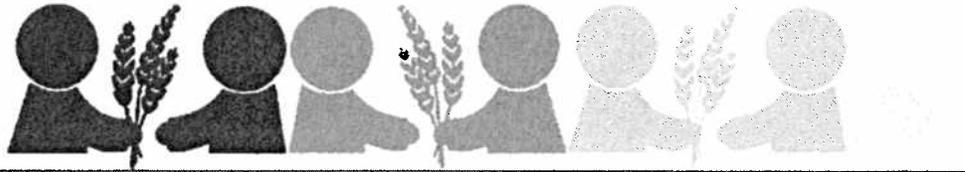
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**Grant Recipient Contact Information:**

Contact Name: Samantha Castle Kirstein  
Phone Number: 907-456-7267  
Address: 725 26th Ave. Fairbanks, AK 99701  
Email: sam@FairbanksFoodBank.org

Has this project been through a public review process at the local level and is it a community priority?  Yes  No



**Fairbanks Community Food Bank :: Freely Given Food, Given Freely**

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Samantha Castle Kirstein, Executive Director • E-mail: [Sam@FairbanksFoodBank.org](mailto:Sam@FairbanksFoodBank.org)

February 25, 2008

Representative Jay Ramras  
District 10  
Alaska Legislature  
House of Representatives  
FAX 465-2070

Dear Representative Ramras,

As always, thank you for being such a partner in building this community food bank. It takes all of us working together to provide food assistance to over 31,000 Interior residents each year.

This year you sent along a list which will better describe this project. I will complete the list below:

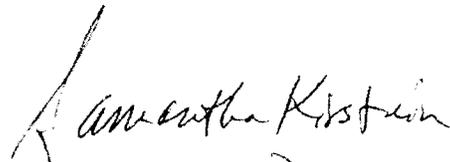
1. **Project name:** Fairbanks Community Food Bank
2. **Location:** 725 26<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Fairbanks, Alaska; District 10
3. **Description of project:** Food bank warehouse computer upgrade, utility assistance and refrigeration improvement
4. **Amount of funding requested:** \$50,000
5. **Total funding to complete project:** \$50,000
6. **Number of years to complete the project; start and end dates:** This is not a continuous project or even phases of the same project. It is different projects within the program of the Food Bank. The first year we asked for funds to complete the construction project. We added on to the existing building. Dennis Wise paid for the exterior construction, Rasmuson paid for some of the warehouse and kitchen furnishings in the new space and the State paid for the remainder of the warehouse equipment necessary to complete the project. The second year we asked for an exploratory project to see if we could use the space for USDA warehouse AND for a value store for low income people who live in the area. In 2008 we request funding to improve the computer sytem (last time we did this upgrade the costs were \$20,000) and to assist in the enormous increases we are facing with utilities increases (estimated to be nearly \$24,000 more than 2006). We also seek to install refrigeration controls which will increase the efficiency of operations of that equipment (estimate \$6,000).
7. **Matching funds available/sources:** We match the 15% of government funds we receive for program operations with over \$2,500,000 in donated food and volunteer services plus the donations of vehicles and warehouse space in which we operate our food bank. The



A United Way Agency

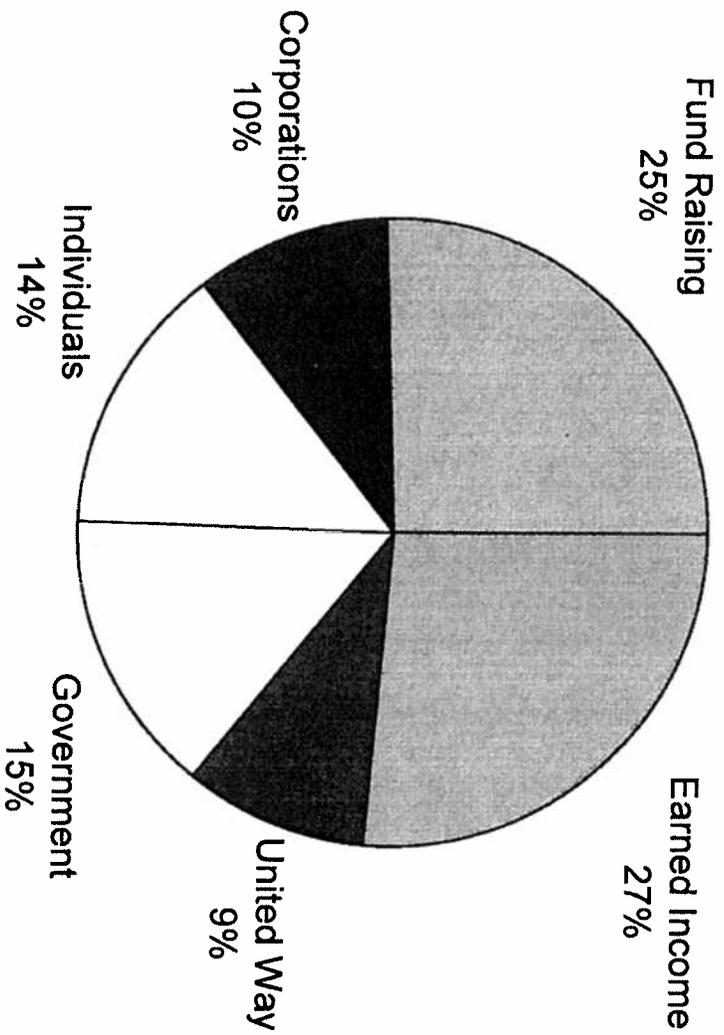
diversity of our funding comes through individual donations (14%), corporations (10%), United Way (9%), earned income (27%), fundraisers (25%). By tying all these income sources together we can provide 2.5 million pounds of local surplus food to 31,000 Interior Alaska residents.

8. **If the project received prior state appropriations, list the amount and the year of appropriation:** 2006 = \$50,000; 2007 = \$50,000. These are three separate projects in the same food bank warehouse.
9. **Are funds for the project included in the governor's proposed FY2009 budget?** No
10. **Are federal funds being sought, either through competitive grants or earmarks?** No
11. **Has the project gone through a public review process at the local level and is it a community priority demonstrated by resolution or other official action by the governing body?** No
12. **If funding is made available for the project this year, who will be responsible for providing ongoing maintenance and operations costs?** The Fairbanks Community Food Bank provides its own maintenance personnel and budget.
13. **Project contact information:** Samantha Kirstein, Fairbanks Community Food Bank, [sam@fairbanksfoodbank.org](mailto:sam@fairbanksfoodbank.org), 907-456-7267.

  
Samantha Kirstein  
Executive Director



# FY2008 Income



	Feb 06	Jul '05 - Feb 06
<b>69000 · Utilities</b>		
69100 · Electric	6,623	25,734
69200 · Communication	749	6,110
69300 · Heating Fuel	4,020	11,241
69400 · Water & Sewer	165	1,593
69700 · Security	270	540
<b>Total 69000 · Utilities</b>	<b>11,827</b>	<b>45,218</b>
<b>75000 · Insurance Expense</b>		
75100 · Directors & Officers Vol Ins.	0	1,348
75300 · Liability Insurance	0	(5,212)
75500 · Vehicle Insurance	0	1,909
75600 · Workers Comp Insurance	0	10,240
75700 · Volunteer's Insurance	0	0
75000 · Insurance Expense - Other	610	4,008
<b>Total 75000 · Insurance Expense</b>	<b>610</b>	<b>12,293</b>

	Feb 07	Jul '06 - Feb 07
<b>69000 · Utilities</b>		
69800 · Garbage	372	2,148
69100 · Electric	5,604	35,283
69200 · Communication	856	5,855
69300 · Heating Fuel	4,115	15,545
69400 · Water & Sewer	290	3,117
69700 · Security	270	5,151
<b>Total 69000 · Utilities</b>	<b>11,507</b>	<b>67,099</b>
<b>75000 · Insurance Expense</b>		
75100 · Directors & Officers Vol Ins.	147	1,562
75300 · Liability Insurance	0	525
75400 · Property Liability	0	3,070
75500 · Vehicle Insurance	0	2,346
75600 · Workers Comp Insurance	1,812	14,016
75000 · Insurance Expense - Other	492	6,273
<b>Total 75000 · Insurance Expense</b>	<b>2,451</b>	<b>27,792</b>

	Feb 08	Jul '07 - Feb 08
<b>69000 · Utilities</b>		
69800 · Garbage	321	2,178
69100 · Electric	5,969	41,411
69200 · Communication	777	4,662
69300 · Heating Fuel	5,988	17,118
69400 · Water & Sewer	292	1,925
69700 · Security	0	1,671
<b>Total 69000 · Utilities</b>	<b>13,347</b>	<b>68,965</b>
<b>75000 · Insurance Expense</b>		
75100 · Directors & Officers Vol Ins.	0	1,562
75300 · Liability Insurance	0	1,770
75500 · Vehicle Insurance	0	2,474
75600 · Workers Comp Insurance	0	14,437
75000 · Insurance Expense - Other	0	10,948
<b>Total 75000 · Insurance Expense</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>31,191</b>



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# Annual Report 2007

Dear Supporters,

In 1982 a small group of people had a great idea. Let's connect our surplus food in this community (every community has surplus food) to the people who need it. There are always people who are not sure of where their next meal will come from. In Interior Alaska, let's SHARE our resources. Fortunately, in 1982, they followed through on their great idea. *Now let's imagine if...* money was never an issue at the food bank. We receive free food and give it away free. We do our best to be the most cost-effective and efficient grassroots agency in Alaska, supported by local donors, many of whom have received services in the past and want to pass along the blessings to others who need some food assurance.

Usually, hunger or lack of food assurance (don't know where their next meal will come from) is a passing event in a life. People find jobs, get healed from their injuries or illness, return to a (restored) home after a fire, or in some way find a solution to the problem which led them into a crisis situation. Food Bank is here for them during the emergency, and often they are willing to stand by another family who is in need when they get back on their feet. And that's the way it works in Interior Alaska.

As we all approach a time when our permanent fund dividend arrives in the mail, we ask you to consider a donation which will help a local family get through their crisis situation. If you have a surplus of food, please donate it. If you have a surplus of time or can make time, please consider doing a shift at the food bank. If you have "extra" money or donate this time of the year because of the permanent fund dividend, will you please consider a gift to your local, home-grown, made in Alaska, food bank!

The miracle is that we are not grant funded, just folks here in the Tanana Valley helping folks in the Tanana Valley, and we have been doing that job since 1982 - 25 years. Your help is definitely needed to keep the doors open and to continue to do the important task of recycling useable food. We certainly cannot do this work without your support. Thank you.

Love,

Sam



Samantha Kirstein  
Executive Director  
725 26th Avenue  
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701  
Tel: 907-456-7267  
Fax: 907-374-9776

E-mail: [sam@fairbanksfoodbank.org](mailto:sam@fairbanksfoodbank.org)

FREELY GIVEN FOOD,  
GIVEN FREELY

# GOOD HAPPENS because of Volunteers!

At the food bank, we think we have the best jobs in Alaska, and that was certainly the case once again this past year. There are two ways to tell the story of hunger in Interior Alaska. One is to remind you that **HUNGER HURTS!** That is true in Fairbanks and in other nooks and crannies of Alaska.

One of the stories we heard this past year was the story of a senior who had no food in his refrigerator when the care giver went to visit. He had been in and out of the hospital. His income was \$2 more than allowed by the various federal income guideline programs, but his expenses far exceeded "normal" medical and other living expenses, so food had been the item cut from his budget. What a blessing to be able to offer him food assistance, when we live in such a generous community. The incredibly sad part of the story is that we may not have known of his need, if the case worker had not told us.

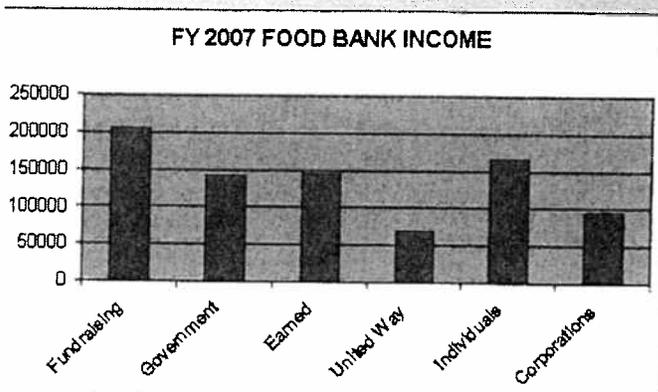
**GOOD HAPPENS in this community because there are so many nice people who do nice things for their neighbors.**

We have a culture of sharing and caring for our neighbors, and that makes it possible for a small non-profit like this to collect local surplus food and give it to people who need it. The work isn't revenue generating, so the fact that this small non-profit has been operating continuously since 1982 is a story of one miracle after another, year after year. It is the story of the check that arrived just in the nick of time and we were able to keep the doors open one more month; the man who built a warehouse for us; an 88 year old wheelchair-bound volunteer who repacks rice for small families; a boy scout whose troop made arrangements for a community fish distribution (fish from Valdez) and an aging volunteer who died and left us part of her estate. There are, literally, hundreds and hundreds of **GOOD HAPPENS** stories each year, and we have the privilege of being witnesses to these events.



## GOOD HAPPENS! Fast Facts

	July 04- June 05	July 05- June 06	July 06- June 07
<b>Food box clients served</b>	32,403	33,342	30,776
<b>Lbs. of food received from the community</b>	2,378,253	2,145,077	2,355,351
<b>Lbs of food distributed</b>	1,667,039	1,630,570	1,760,386
<b>Volunteers hours</b>	20,653	17,000	16,480



And our budget? Imagine if...  
money was never an issue?

Our budget is one of the smallest non-profit cash budgets in Alaska. We are rich in donated "in-kind" goods and services, and poor in cash. We receive free food and give it away free, and that just isn't very revenue generating!

80% of the resources we need to operate this food bank are locally donated "in-kind" (non-cash); donated food, volunteer hours and donated facilities.

Some of the members and family of Troop 38, donating their time and doing community service projects.

# Stories of Courage

- "My house went down to foreclosure. I can't find a job because I have kids at home and I am a single parent."
- "I'm caught between paychecks and I have kids at home... and Christmas is coming up."
- "Our car is broken, so all our money has gone to those payments."
- "I'm waiting on my next paycheck to get some food. I had to take off from work today to get this food. I don't have a car, so I have to walk a mile with the food boxes."
- "I've got four kids and at the end of the month a food box really helps."
- "I'm trying to raise my grandchildren but I'm old and sick."
- "I got hit by a logging truck in '95 and am disabled now and not able to work at all... and I have a growing teenager. After paying bills, I don't have enough money to feed us."
- "I'm out of work right now (seasonal employment), so with no money coming in, this food box helps."
- "I don't want to take food someone else may need, but my social security doesn't go very far when I have to pay for prescriptions, too."
- "I wish I could work, but no one wants to hire an old woman of 80 years old, but I have worked my whole life."
- "My house burned to the ground and I have to start over, and I didn't have anything in reserve before that happened."

## But WE can help



# Going for a million at the Fair

Thursday, August 9, 2007 was another milestone day for this local food bank. In Interior Alaska we celebrate the sharing and caring that occurs when people focus on getting a job done. We take care of one another here, and one of the ways we do that is canned food day at the Fair. That has been our largest canned food collection each year for the past 12 years.



**Jack Wilbur at the Fair Gate, greeting people and collected canned food at the Tanana Valley Fair. Jack's business, Design Alaska, is celebrating 50 years of serving this community. We love those Food Bank volunteers!**

The Fair theme this year reminded me of how time flies: *Time passes faster than a speeding pullet!* This food bank started in 1982 and the Fair was our first fund raising event.

Here we are 25 years later, still "doing" the Fair, and in 1995 the Fair Board and staff allowed the community to exchange 2 cans for Fair gate admission for the day. What a generous offer, and it has grown since then.

In 1995 we collected 22,000 pounds of canned food and 12 years later, in 2007, we collected 4 cans for Fair gate admission and the total canned food collection was 52,000 pounds. In addition to that, the great smoked turkey legs guy gave us his surplus turkey legs, the competitive exhibits gave us their leftover zucchini, and BP (thanks John Ringstad) bought 4-H livestock at the market auction and had the local processing plant prepare that meat for our food boxes.

All in all, we celebrate a collection of at least 60,000 pounds of food collected through the events of the 2007 Fair. We estimate that will be 24,000 meals, provided to 2600 people (half of whom are children) and will serve this community for about three months. Now that's HUGE! 800 banana boxes stuffed with canned food! At this rate we should hit a million pounds collected at the Fair gate by 2015.



**Stan Barker, Stan Zielinski, Glenn Hackney, Clifford Brown and Anne Weaver (way on top in the back corner) sit on 800 banana boxes in the food bank warehouse collected at the Tanana Valley Fair gate. That's a lot of canned food!**

It is awesome that we have already collected 600,000 pounds of canned food through this one annual event. And of course, the Fair gate work is done by the 168th Air National Guard and it absolutely could not happen without them!

- Jake Poole, President
- Michael Walsh, Vice-President
- Robert Holden, Treasurer
- Hollis Hall, Secretary
- Ellen Ayotte
- Bernice Boykin
- Mark Chamberlain
- Sandy Cummings
- Rick Hinkey
- Karen Kiss
- Maria Muehlenkamp
- Bill Wright

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**We're on the Web!**  
**Donate on-line**  
[www.fairbanksfoodbank.org](http://www.fairbanksfoodbank.org)

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## The Practical Application of the Mission Statement

The mission of this food bank is to

- (a) encourage those who can to share food from your cupboards and gardens;
- (b) collect surplus food in the community and give it to the Food Bank to share with people who need it;
- (c) ask local grocers for outside lettuce leaves (their salvage) and other discarded food.