

Epiphany Service & Outreach

YWCA Central Area Food Bank

Parish Report, August 2022

Questions? Contact Holly Boone at brausboone@msn.com

The Service & Outreach Team sends a warm thank you to the many parishioners who give to the Hunger Basket. Your donations provide a significant amount of fresh produce to more than 300 households in Seattle who rely on the YWCA Central Area Food Bank in Madrona for some of their weekly food. Here's how your gifts help feed our neighbors.

Hunger Basket giving and produce costs

In the first half of 2022, rising produce costs exceeded Hunger Basket donations by about 12%. The Hunger Basket account began the year with a balance of \$7,167, which seems adequate to cover shortfalls. The Outreach General Fund can also augment Hunger Basket revenue.

Hunger Basket donations	\$	10,857
Produce costs	\$	12,293
Average weekly produce cost	\$	512

Produce provided January through June

Apples	560	pounds
Bananas	2660	pounds
Strawberries	17	flats
Acorn squash	750	pounds
Broccoli	1140	pounds
Carrots	2100	pounds
Celery	72	bunches
Garlic	2700	heads
Kale, lettuce, other greens	2304	bunches
Green onions	600	bunches
Yellow onions	1300	pounds



Every Wednesday morning Epiphany delivers a load of produce to the Food Bank, where volunteers pack hundreds of bags of food. At noon, volunteer drivers arrive to deliver the bags to clients' homes; large families receive two bags.



Epiphany supplied virtually all the fresh produce in the Food Bank's early days.



In pre-pandemic years—when the order fit in an average car—Steve Faust was one of the Epiphany volunteers who picked up the produce from MacPherson's on Wednesday mornings and delivered it to the Food Bank.

Epiphany's history with the YWCA Food Bank

In 2009 Epiphany Parish began providing fresh produce to a tiny food bank operating on a shoestring out of a YWCA apartment complex in Yesler Terrace. The project soon grew to become the Central Area Food Bank in facilities behind the YWCA branch on East Cherry in Madrona.

Prior to the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic in 2020, the Food Bank was open from noon to 3:00 PM on Wednesdays. Clients, then numbering less than 100, could select from the available pantry staples, frozen meat, canned goods, dairy products, surplus commodities like potatoes and cheese, and fresh fruit and vegetables, much of which Epiphany purchased (at a good discount) from MacPherson's Produce on Beacon Hill. Residents of YWCA housing were given priority, but the Food Bank also served other low-income families in the area. Covid, however, forced a halt to on-site "shopping" at the very time the need for food assistance rose sharply.

Today forty or so volunteer drivers deliver a bag of groceries (two bags for larger families) every Wednesday to more than 300 households in Central and South Seattle. Northwest Harvest, Food Lifeline, and the USDA supply most items, but Epiphany continues to provide a supplement of fresh fruit and vegetables that families appreciate very much.

Behind the scenes at the Central Area Food Bank today

Like all food banks around the country, the Central Area Food Bank relies on *many* volunteers. In addition to delivery drivers (always in short supply), volunteers are needed Tuesdays to sort and package food. Wednesday's morning shift packs grocery bags with the food available that week, and the afternoon shift helps drivers load their vehicles and tidy up. If you could help in any way, please contact Megan, the Food Bank Coordinator, at mboyce@ywcaworks.org.



Tuesday volunteers rebag bulk grated cheese.

Who uses the YWCA Food Bank?

Client population

Households receiving food	+300
Total individuals	+600

Household size

1-person	50%
2-person	30%
3 or more persons	20%

Ages

1-2	2%
3-18	17%
19-54	21%
55+	60%

Ethnicity

Asian or Asian-American	60%
African, African-American	12%
White	6%
Native American	3%
Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander	1%
Not identified	18%