

## The Bright Side

Here at Food Bank of Alaska, we are staying focused on the positive, firmly facing the bright side of these tough economic times.

While FBA and our partners are still seeing significant increases in the number of families seeking food assistance, we are also seeing great partnerships emerging to help meet the increased demand.

■ **TEFAP Boom.** Thanks to the leadership of the State of Alaska, Child Nutrition Services in the Department of Education and Early Development in accessing commodities made available through the Farm Bill and stimulus legislation, supplies of TEFAP food are at their highest levels in a decade. FBA's warehouse is working double-time to receive, inspect and ship frozen chicken, cereal and other nutritious foods.

■ **Summer Food.** The federal Summer Food Service Program provides funding for meals to children when school is out. FBA is sponsoring Summer Food sites in over 40 communities – which means we do the paperwork and usually arrange for the food while our partners distribute food to kids. Our fabulous partners include Girl Scouts Susitna Council, Boys and Girls Clubs, and Paddleboat Café. And of course the State of Alaska, Child Nutrition Services nourishes this program throughout Alaska.

■ **Western Alaska.** The need for food assistance in Western Alaska reached crisis proportions this winter. Many chose to take responsibility to alleviate this suffering, including: Representative Jay Ramras; Calista Corporation; The State of Alaska, Child Nutrition Services; John Moeller, Governor Sarah Palin's Rural Advisor; Anchorage Baptist Temple; Wal-Mart; the Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter Day Saints; Wells Fargo; Carrs/Safeway; Alaska Airlines; Desert Air; and Alaska Wings Civil Patrol. Together with FBA and Fairbanks Community Food Bank, these partnerships resulted in more than 40,000 pounds of food distributed in nearly a dozen villages.

■ **Expanding the Mobile Food Pantry.** Thanks to support from United Way of Anchorage, FBA is able to support two new Mobile Food Pantry sites in Anchorage. The community of Mt. View stunned us with their enthusiasm and collaborative skills, and now there is a Mobile Food Pantry at the Mt. View Boys and Girls Club every Friday. Lutheran Church of Hope on Northern Lights in Spenard stepped up to host the Mobile Food Pantry on Tuesday evenings.

So, in the midst of these dark days, these fabulous partnerships are creating their own light.

Susannah Morgan  
Executive Director

## MISSION

Food Bank of Alaska is dedicated to eliminating hunger in Alaska by obtaining and providing food to partner agencies feeding hungry people and through anti-hunger leadership.



## INFORMATION

Potlatch is published two times a year. If you receive two of these, please pass one to a friend and notify Food Bank of Alaska staff.

Design Mad Dog Graphx

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## JOEL BERG TO ALASKA

*“Fighting hunger without the weapon of big federal dollars is like fighting drought without water,” Joel Berg.*

This past February, Food Bank of Alaska had the wonderful opportunity to host a nationally recognized leader and hunger advocate, Joel Berg. Berg provided comic relief to our hard working staff, energized and inspired our partner agencies, and offered insights on our work in the anti-hunger network.

Berg held a public lecture at the UAA Bookstore and spoke about hunger in America and his views on ending hunger altogether. His vision and thinking can be considered extreme. But it takes that kind of person pushing the envelope to help get us closer to ending hunger in our communities.



*“It is common for people to question whether ending hunger would reduce poverty. But only someone who has never known it could ask such a question. Hunger makes it harder for children to learn, for parents to parent, and for workers to work. It causes frustration and hopelessness. It makes it impossible for sick people to get well.” – excerpt from All You Can Eat: How Hungry is America?, Joel Berg.*

For those of us dealing with the effects of these tough economic times, Joel Berg was a breath of fresh air. Berg read excerpts from his new book, *All You Can Eat: How Hungry Is America?* and gave the keynote address at our Agency Conference. Among the events in Anchorage, Joel

Before becoming executive director of the New York City Coalition Against Hunger in 2001, Berg served for eight years in the Clinton Administration in senior executive service positions at USDA. For two years, he worked as USDA Community Coordinator of Community Food Security, a new position, in which he created and implemented the first-ever federal initiative to better enable faith-based and other nonprofit groups to fight hunger, bolster food security, and help low-income Americans move from poverty to self-sufficiency.

Joel Berg's visit and public lecture at UAA was co-sponsored by Catholic Social Services, Lutheran Social Services, Salvation Army, and United Way of Anchorage.



- Summer 2009 •
- Over 8,000 Distributed •
- Address Service Requested •

Members of:



## W I S H L I S T

Want to make a unique contribution to Food Bank of Alaska? Listed below are everyday items and services that we need to operate our facility.

- Order Picker
- Technology funding
- Electrical work
- Heat laminator



## T H A N K - Y O U

Generous support for Potlatch is provided by First National Bank Alaska.

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## The Mobile Food Pantry has expanded!

Anchorage neighborhoods Mt. View and Spenard are now on the schedule for deliveries of the Mobile Food Pantry!

Food Bank of Alaska received funding from the United Way of Anchorage to expand the Mobile Food Pantry Program (MFP). Neighborhoods Mt. View and Spenard were selected based on the high number of children participating in free and reduced lunches in the area schools. The Mt. View Boys and Girls Club and the Lutheran Church of Hope in Spenard are the new hosts for the MFP sites that bring fresh fruit, vegetables, and dairy products directly to people in neighborhoods.

In the early stages of planning a MFP for Mt. View, meetings in the community were especially dynamic and brought a sense of compassion and togetherness. It was nearly a seamless transition from planning to implementation since so many people in Mt. View were able, willing and ready to help with the program. The MFP Mt. View site has proved to be a success; an average of about 90 families in the diverse community visit the MFP site each week. There are currently nine different sites in Anchorage that host the Mobile Food Pantry.

These outstanding churches and organizations have come together to help bring the new Mobile Food Pantry to their neighborhoods:

### MT. VIEW

Anchorage Community Land Trust  
Good Sheppard Christian Fellowship  
Leake Temple AME Zion  
Mt. View Boys and Girls Club  
New Hope Baptist Church  
Mt. View Community Center

### SPENARD

Lutheran Church of Hope  
Anchorage Unitarian Universalist Fellowship



# LOCAL CELEBRITIES

gave volunteers a (much needed and highly deserved) break



**National Volunteer Appreciation Week "Celebrating People in Action" April 19-25, 2009**

Food Bank of Alaska has the incredible fortune of having a crew of highly dedicated and hard working volunteers. There is no way that we could do the work that we do without the help of volunteers. From filing and maintaining databases, to sorting and shelving food in our warehouse, there are a wide variety of people who perform an amazing assortment of jobs every day.

And what better way to appreciate them than by giving them a break?

In observance of National Volunteer Appreciation Week, we decided to hold our first annual Celebrity Sorting Event. A group of local "celebrities"

came to the warehouse, learned a little about the work that we do at Food Bank of Alaska, and sorted and shelved hundreds of pounds of food. Some of the celebs were familiar with FBA, but even more didn't know the kind of work that we do, or the scale. UAA chancellor Fran Ulmer, the UAA Women's Basketball Team, Alaska Communications Systems president and CEO Liane Pelletier, politician and writer Diane Benson, Anchorage Chrysler Dodge spokesperson Chuck Talsky, and KFAT disc jockey McConnell Adams "Man-at-Large" all participated in the first annual event.

More than 1,500 individual volunteers donate their time at Food Bank of Alaska year-round. In 2008, volunteers worked more than 20,000 hours, an equivalent of 10 full-time staff members.

If you've donated some of your time or muscle to Food Bank of Alaska, thank you! (Save the Date: if you volunteer regularly, be on the look out for an invitation to our annual Volunteer Tea & Thank You event scheduled for August 27th!)

"I shall pass through this world but once. Any good therefore that I can do or any kindness that I can show to any human being, let me do it now. Let me not defer or neglect it, for I shall not pass this way again." –MAHATMA GANDHI

## PHILANTHROPY MATTERS

By: Merri Mike Adams, *Managing Director*

Food Bank of Alaska is a sophisticated food distribution organization dressed in grass-roots clothing, and we rely on the time, energy, goods and treasure of our neighbors to do our work. It is Food Bank of Alaska that was asked to help coordinate the Western Alaska region relief effort this winter, and now this spring, we are being asked how flood victims of the Kuskawim and Yukon Rivers are getting food. People rely on us. People all over Alaska know we will do whatever we can to get food to people in need of it, and that we have the sophisticated infrastructure (a warehouse, a small fleet of trucks, experienced drivers, shippers and other personnel, and so on) to get it done efficiently.

*"Philanthropy is giving freely. Planned giving is thinking and planning now for charitable gifts through your estate to ensure that there is a future for Food Bank of Alaska."*

What surprises people the most when they come to us for assistance in distributing food is the cost – the cost of transportation and shipping to the interior. Everyone knows by-pass mail rates have increased, and we all feel the pinch of fuel costs in our everyday lives. After

personnel, the cost of shipping is the single greatest expense for Food Bank of Alaska every year.

Philanthropy is giving freely. Planned giving is thinking and planning now for charitable gifts through your estate to ensure that there is a future for Food Bank of Alaska. Because of complex federal tax laws, by making a planned gift to Food Bank of Alaska, you may be able to leave more to your family while spending less on estate taxes. There are many forms of formal planned gifts. The simplest of these is to name Food Bank of Alaska as a beneficiary of a sum of money through your estate. You may also choose to leave Food Bank of Alaska an asset, such as a house, instead of a dollar amount. There is a simple bequest form on our web site at [www.foodbankofalaska.org](http://www.foodbankofalaska.org). We need you now, of course, but our future is also in your hands. Please contact me at 272-3663 if I can arrange a meeting to discuss a formal planned giving program or provide you with any additional information.

*"Give what you have. To someone else, it may be better than you dare to think."* –LONGFELLOW

[WWW.FOODBANKOFALASKA.ORG](http://WWW.FOODBANKOFALASKA.ORG)

## Canstruction 2009

"WE'RE IN! 50 Years of Alaskan Excellence"

For the second year in a row, DOWL HKM took both the Juror's Favorite and People's Choice awards at the annual Canstruction® competition. The industrious team of engineering professionals, DOWL HKM creatively (and carefully) built a towering train engine passing through an Alaskan mountain using cans of food. They utilized the entire width of the 10-foot square area, along with taking their structure to a great height.

Canstruction® is a design and build competition of local architects, engineers, and contractors who create large giant structures made entirely out of canned goods. The structures were on display at the University Center for two weeks and open to the public in March.

Each team had 12 hours to build their self-supporting structure within a 10-foot square area on the floor of the University Center. Teams were encouraged to design structures based on the "WE'RE IN! 50 Years of Alaskan Excellence" Canstruction® theme while at the same time utilizing nutritious canned foods that will ultimately benefit the hungry population of Alaska. This charitable event brought in approximately 20,000 pounds of food donated to Food Bank of Alaska (FBA).

### Canstruction® 2009 Award Winners

Juror's Favorite, DOWL HKM – "Alaska 50 Years on the Right Track"

Best Use of Labels, R&M Consultants – "Alaska's Golden CANNiversary"

Structural Integrity, Schneider & Associates with Kumin and Associates – "Eight Stars of Gold on a Field of Stew"

Best Meal, Coffman Engineers – "Tribute to the AlasCAN Railroad"

Honorable Mention, kpb architects – "Happy 50th Birthday, Alaska! Now Officially Over the Mountain!"

Honorable Mention, RIM Architects – "Happy Anniversary, Alaska!"

In 2008, the Alaska Chapter of American Institute of Architects partnered with the Society of Design Administration to revive the community event that involves members of the industry and the public.



## HUNGER FACTS

In Alaska, for every 100 children that receive a free or reduced price school lunch during the school year, only seven have access to a summer meal

The Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) is going to be in over 40 FBA sponsored Alaska communities this summer with over 60 communities including other SFSP sponsored sites

In 2008, FBA served 8,055 meals to children in rural Alaska

FBA hopes to provide 17,000 meals for children in rural Alaska this summer

Alaska ranks 49th out of all of the states in the U.S. for SFSP participation

## Food Flow CHART

**HUNGRY ALASKANS**  
Hungry Alaskans include working parents, school children, grandmothers, people with two jobs, disabled men and women, and single dads. It's likely you know someone who needs help.

**PARTNERS**  
Our partners include youth programs, senior centers, food pantries, shelters, soup kitchens, and daycare programs.



### COMMUNITY FOOD BANKS

Food banks in Soldotna, Juneau, Kodiak, and Fairbanks work with FBA to reach communities in outlying areas around the state.

### FOOD BANK OF ALASKA

FBA will move more than six million pounds in the coming year. This food is distributed to agencies feeding hungry people.

### FOOD DONORS

FBA establishes and develops partnerships with retailers, wholesalers, processors and organizations, and encourages donations of surplus food.

## ADVOCACY CORNER

During the school year, millions of children depend on receiving free and reduced-price school meals each day. Many of these children are at nutritional risk during the months when they are on school breaks or when schools are closed for vacation. The Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) was created in 1968 to ensure that children in low-income areas could continue to receive nutritious meals during the summer break.

"In Alaska, for every 100 children that receive a free or reduced priced lunch during the school year, only 7 receive summer meals through SFSP. Alaska ranks 49th of 50 states in SFSP participation. Food Bank of Alaska is committed to increasing the access of meals to children during the summer months".

FBA is one of several organizations that partner with the State of Alaska, Child Nutrition Services, Department of Education and Early Development to sponsor SFSP feeding sites throughout the state. The number of FBA sponsored summer food programs has grown significantly in three years. In 2007, FBA coordinated food for 8 SFSP locations in Anchorage. In the summer of 2009 children in over 60 communities in Alaska will be able to participate in a summer food program. In addition to sites in Anchorage and the Mat-Su valley, FBA will partner with the Girl Scout Susitna Council, Boys & Girls Clubs, and various village organizations to provide meals to over 50 communities in rural Alaska. In all we expect to provide over 50,000 meals to low-income children this summer.

The need for good nutrition is crucial for children to have safe and productive summers. For more information about the Summer Food Service Program and how to make SFSP available in your community, contact Food Bank of Alaska at 907-272-3663 or Child Nutrition Services at 907-465-4788.

