

Hunger in Our Community How can we help?



Hunger is a huge issue in Pierce County. There are many reasons why this is; for one, Washington State has one of the highest unemployment rates in the nation. Other families have low-wage jobs and have trouble making ends meet. Retired seniors constantly have to choose between buying food or buying their medication. In many cases, families have to choose between food and heat.

Here are some facts about hunger in Pierce County:

- 143,300 residents visit food banks and hot meal sites each month
- 52% of those residents are children and seniors
- 43% are families with at least one adult working
- More than 50% of the public school children in Tacoma qualify for federal free or reduced lunch prices
- 2004 showed a 26% increase in demand for emergency food over 23%
- Tacoma food banks are already showing a 7% increase over last year

How can you help?

- Make a cash or food donation at your local FISH Food Bank or any shelter in the area
- Volunteer to help at any local food bank
- Support hunger fundraisers such as the Pierce County Hunger Walk
- Support a food drive in your school
- Have a club food drive for your local food bank

