

Building For The Future

EFN is building an additional warehouse

There's an exciting change happening at EFN this year – we're building a new warehouse! Over the past few years, our existing warehouse and vertical storage space have been pushed beyond their capacity to meet the growing need. To increase our capacity, we created the Building for the Future Campaign.

Since the beginning of the pandemic in 2020, we have seen a steady rise in the frequency of visits and number of individuals served in our network. We are looking at an increase of 77% in Spring 2023 in comparison to pre-pandemic statistics in 2019. EFN has also utilized new strategies like our Home Delivery Program in order to address limited food access within the community. The increased need and new ways of storing and distributing food have pushed our buildings to their limit. We've created temporary solutions by storing food in 13 trailers parked on our property and renting warehouse space in Auburn, but these methods are expensive and inefficient.

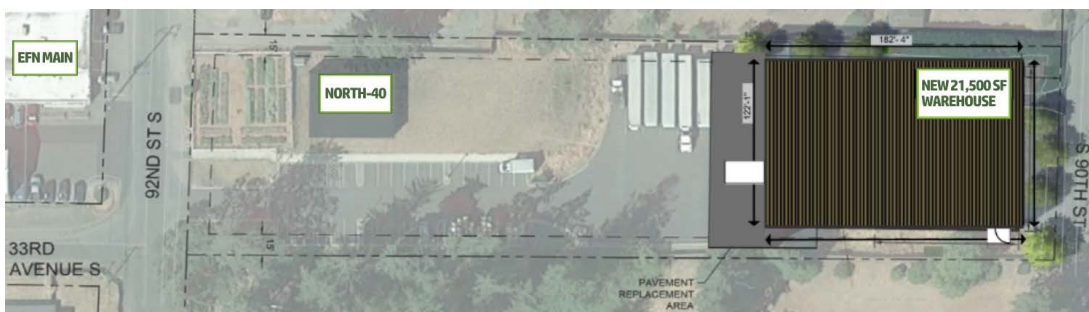


Over the past 17 months, we have been raising funds through our Building for the Future Campaign to construct a new 21,500-square-foot warehouse on our property. The new space will expand our overall storage capacity by 40% and will be our primary long-term storage space for staple items. We will continue to utilize our existing warehouse, but it will hold food for immediate distribution. The new space will also increase efficiency for our warehouse team by establishing more effective systems of building orders and storing food. The addition of more dock spaces will reduce wait times for drivers delivering food and partners picking up their orders. The new space will transform EFN's daily operations and prepare us for the future.

We just launched the public fundraising part of this campaign and would appreciate your support. While we began our Building for the Future Campaign in 2022, we are excited to share that we are aiming to have our warehouse completed by the end of 2023. Over the next few months, there will be a lot of activity at EFN as construction begins!

You can donate and learn more about the campaign online at:

www.efoodnet.org/building-for-the-future



Summer Months at Mother Earth Farm

Eat, drink, and be *rosemary*

Summer has arrived, which means that we are in our peak season at EFN's Mother Earth Farm! We are excited about all of the new things that are in the ground right now including fava beans, radishes, collards, fennel, and tomatoes!



Good times grow at Brewers Night!

Our busiest season also means that we need the most help from volunteers right now. Volunteers spent over 900 hours at Mother Earth Farm during our May-August peak season last year!

We are excited to have 3 University of Puget Sound interns ready to grow and harvest produce with us! Volunteers are always needed and welcome at Mother Earth Farm. If you have a club or group that would like to assist our farm crew, reach out to us! We love having big groups like Farm Foundations and our Summer Bonney Lake crew who are eager to lend a hand and learn about cultivating the land.

There are plenty of opportunities to help at Mother Earth Farm. Our morning sessions are on Fridays from 9:00 AM- 12:00 PM. Need evening sessions instead? Watch out for news on Brewers Nights because they are coming soon! These Wednesday evenings are for volunteers aged 21+, and participants enjoy local beer or cider and pizza while weeding areas of the farm. Join us this summer to have fun, spend time with friends and family, and meet new people.

***Please sign up online through our website,
email CarolineC@efoodnet.org,
or call (253)584-1040 for more information.***

Hunger Awareness Month 2023

Pierce County community gathers to address food insecurity

The importance of Hunger Awareness Month (HAM) was especially urgent this year as inflation and reduced SNAP benefits stretched families' budgets thinner than ever. Our hearts are full of gratitude towards our dedicated community members who supported us throughout May. To continue feeding our neighbors in need, we focused our efforts on three annual events during HAM, and we are happy to report the fruits of everyone's labor.

We started off with GiveBIG, our state-wide, online fundraiser hosted by Washington Gives, with a generous match for our donors from Coordinated Care of Washington. EFN's Hunger Walk at Fort Steilacoom Park in Lakewood followed soon after. More than 600 people joined us for a Zumba warm-up, a pleasant walk around Waughop Lake, and yoga cool-down. With lots of new and returning vendors and teams, it was an energizing morning spent in the community.

Next was the "Stamp Out Hunger" Food Drive, the nation's largest single-day food drive, hosted by the National Association of Letter Carriers. Donations were collected at 23 post offices around Pierce County on May 13th, and they brought in an incredible total of **204,338** pounds of food for our neighbors in need! Thank you to the postal workers and over 70 volunteers that helped to make this event such a success!

Altogether, we raised a total of \$170,565 for HAM 2023! We thank everyone who shared their time, effort, steps, funds, and food to combat food insecurity in Pierce County and ensure that no person goes hungry.



Our Mission: To provide Pierce County with a consistent, diverse, and nutritious food supply so that no person goes hungry.

Grow a Row

Your home gardens
can make a difference



Thank you to all our local gardeners and farmers

The growing season isn't just for Mother Earth Farm – gardeners are gearing up for the season, too! At EFN, we always encourage home gardeners in our community to 'grow a row' for their local food pantry. What impact does growing an extra row make? Here are the top reasons we love produce donations from home gardens:

- **Food pantry guests request produce:** when we survey our Partner Programs about which items their guests request most, produce is at the top of the list, year after year!
- **Fresher means more nutritious:** The longer it takes for fruits and vegetables to land at the dinner table, the more nutrients are lost. The quick trip from your garden to a local food pantry means more nutrition for the neighbors enjoying your produce.
- **Grown for neighbors, by neighbors:** growing food for your community means supporting a strong local food system. Local food production benefits all and makes our community more resilient! Rather than bringing produce to EFN, we encourage you to take produce directly to your local food pantry. Visit our website to find the food pantry nearest you. Call or email to find out when you can donate.

WWW.EFOODNET.ORG/FIND-FOOD

Abundance 2023

Save the Date ● October 28, 2023

We are delighted to share that the
Abundance Dinner and Auction returns to the
McGavick Center on October 28th, 2023!



This event features a delicious dinner, exciting live and silent auctions, and an impactful way to give. Proceeds from the event provide food for our neighbors in need throughout Pierce County.

One way you can help make Abundance a success is by donating items and experiences for our live and silent auctions. Do you have a cabin, timeshare, airline miles, or season tickets for local theater companies or sports teams?

Other donation types we accept are gift cards that can be added to existing packages or used to purchase items for the auction. Help us make Abundance 2023 a night to remember!

**Please contact our Development Manager,
Rufina Caluya at Rufina@efoodnet.org
if you'd like to donate an item or experience.**

**Scan QR Code
to support
EFN anywhere,
anytime!**





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Your support is changing lives.

Look inside to see how YOUR support of Emergency Food Network is making a difference in the lives of our neighbors in need!

Here's what we accomplished together in 2022:

1 in 10

Ratio of People Who
Are Food Insecure in
Pierce County*



13 Million

Pounds of Food
Distributed by EFN

2 Million

Visits Made to
Food Programs in
Pierce County

390,136

Pounds of Food
Delivered Through
EFN's Home
Delivery Program

75+

Food Pantries,
Meal Sites,
and Shelters
Served by EFN



\$0.50 = 1 meal

For every \$1
donated EFN
distributes 2 meals for
a family in need.



Stay up to date on
what's happening
at EFN!

efoodnet.org



*2020 Source: Feeding America