

THE ALASKA FOOD COALITION



An Impact Study of the Alaska Food Coalition Mini-grants

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Table of Contents

Executive Summary.....	3
Mini-grant History.....	4
Mini-grant Testimonials.....	10
Mini-grants in the Media	14
Mini-grants – the Future.....	20
Mini-grants and The Alaska Food Coalition	20
Conclusion	21
Appendix 1 – Grantee Abstracts	22
Appendix 2 - Forms.....	33

Executive Summary

Alaska's food pantries, soup kitchens and shelters are in need of new or upgraded facilities and equipment. In a recent survey conducted by The Alaska Food Coalition, over 120 facility or equipment needs were reported by charitable food agencies across the state. The Alaska Food Coalition mini-grants for facility or equipment needs are one of the resources available to help agencies make essential purchases or repairs to physical inventory.

Alaska Food Coalition mini-grants have also been used by agencies to facilitate increases in food distribution and/or the types of food available to their clients. This report analyzes the impact the Alaska Food Coalition mini-grants have had on modernizing the physical capacity of grantee agencies as well as their effectiveness in providing small boosts in the amount and variety of food distributed.

Information was collected from grantee agencies themselves, media stories and Alaska Food Coalition records to assess the efficacy of the mini-grants.

The evidence shows that mini-grant funded charitable food distribution agencies had overwhelmingly benefited from a small injection of cash to either restore or boost physical capacity. In the majority of cases, both the amount and range of food distributed had increased as the result of a mini-grant award; consequently, clients received improved service from charitable food providers. However, fund allocation for the mini-grants was reduced in FY 2007 by \$18,000, and the report suggests that coalition staff and officers pursue alternative sources of funding to re-establish the awards to the FY 2006 level of \$30,000. The report recommends that the most promising opportunity is partnership with a private foundation in a 1:2 matching arrangement.

Mini-grant History

Introduction

The Alaska Food Coalition has been awarding mini-grants for eight of its thirteen years of existence. Sixty-eight awards totaling \$142,805.13 have benefited forty-six agencies in various regions of Alaska.

Mini-grants are intended to help food and nutrition agencies build on their ability to distribute food by granting equipment purchases or staff training. Funds might be used to purchase small freezers or refrigerators to store food for distribution, purchase or repair basic equipment/kitchen appliances or train staff and volunteers in safe food handling techniques. The amount awarded varies, but in general it averages about \$2,000 per application. In 2001, the awards process was formalized and opened on a competitive basis to Alaska Food Coalition and non-Alaska Food Coalition members alike. All applicants are asked to complete an application form and read guidelines on submission (see Appendix 2). An independent review panel of four community leaders is involved in the determination of successful grant applications. The review process is guided by a review form (see Appendix 2).

This section presents basic information on funded applications by fiscal year in tabular form. The pie charts following give an indication of the geographic dispersal of awards and how they have been used. The data is intended to provide an overview of mini-grant history. Abstracts of funded applications from 2002 onward can be found in Appendix 1.

Fiscal Year 1998

Agency	Amount (\$)	Purpose
Aurora Height Assembly of God Church, Nikiski	499.99	Chest freezer
Boys and Girls Club of Kenai	514.88	Upright freezer
Bristol Bay Native Association, Dillingham	499.99	Chest freezer
Helping Hands, Juneau	514.88	Upright freezer
Homer Community Food Pantry	514.88	Upright freezer
Kenai Peninsula Food Bank, Soldotna	2,000	Reach-in freezer
Kenai Peninsula Food Bank, Soldotna	514.88	Upright freezer
Kenai Women's Resource and Crisis Center	514.88	Upright freezer
The Salvation Army Kenai	514.88	Upright freezer
Total	6,089.26	9

Fiscal Year 1999

Agency	Amount (\$)	Purpose
Fairbanks Rescue Mission	5,000	Freezer
Total	5,000	1

Fiscal Year 2000

Agency	Amount (\$)	Purpose
Drug Free Youth, Ketchikan	639	Refrigerator
Elim Food Bank	444.97	Freezer
Total	1,083.97	2

Fiscal Year 2001

Agency	Amount (\$)	Purpose
Bristol Bay Native Association, Dillingham	1,000	Office supplies
Eddie Hoffman Senior Center, Bethel	586.75	Microwave oven
Fairbanks Community Food Bank	1,200	Eighty baby food grinders
Fairbanks Rescue Mission	4,500	Reach-in freezer & two carts
Kenai Peninsula Food Bank, Soldotna	4,500	Food and transportation
Latino Lions, Anchorage	1,199.98	Two freezers
Southeast Alaska Food Bank, Juneau	29,700	Install septic tank, bathroom, sink, refrigerator, and freezer Complete building interior and water hook-ups
St. Francis House, Anchorage	1,000	Computer
Total	43,686.73	8

Fiscal Year 2002

Agency	Amount (\$)	Purpose
Eddie Hoffman Senior Center, Bethel	1,700	Hobart sanitizer
Fairbanks Community Food Bank	1,200	Baby food mills
Fairbanks Rescue Mission	500	Annual fees for GrantStation.com
Fairbanks Rescue Mission	1,000	Two portable salad bars
Food Bank of Alaska	1,000	Strapping machine
Kenai Peninsula Food Bank, Soldotna	2,980	Rolling counter door and rolling grill
Kodiak Baptist Mission	518	New scale

Latino Lions, Anchorage	1,000	Two freezers
Nome Community Center	1,250	Exterior door, interior door, and galvanized steel shelving Shipping for shelving and labor costs
Wasilla Area Seniors	200	Accommodation in Juneau for Annual Member Meeting
Total	11,348	10

Fiscal Year 2005

Agency	Amount (\$)	Purpose
Alakanuk Tribal Council	1,294	Refrigerator and freezer
Alpha Omega Life Care, Delta Junction	2,000	Small outdoor store unit
AWAIC, Anchorage	2,000	Commercial toaster, shelving, work tables, dinner service ware, disposable gloves, hairnets and aprons
Bethel Lions Club	3,500	To foam insulate, put exterior protective siding and put a sloped roof on the recycled shipment storage van used to store food
Bristol Bay Elders Action Group, Naknek	2,000	Commercial food grinder
Eddie Hoffman Senior Center, Bethel	1,986	Deep under-counter refrigerator
Covenant House Alaska, Anchorage	2,350	Replace the inner door of a walk-in refrigeration unit
Emmonak Tribal Council	1,458	Two freezers
Igiugig Tribal Village Council	2,000	Commercial freezer and refrigerator
Kenai Peninsula Food Bank, Soldotna	2,000	Freezer and cooler shelving, a cooler, stainless steel pots with lids, and anti-fatigue mats
Kids Café, Anchorage	1,500	To obtain Safe Server certification for site supervisors Purchase menu boards, donor recognition plaques and print brochures for Kid's Day 2005
Kodiak Island Food Bank	3,200	Repair walk-in freezer
New Hope on the Last Frontier, Anchorage	2,494	Two door glass refrigeration unit

Nome Community Center	2,000	Refrigerator and freezer
Seward Senior Center	2,000	Reach-in refrigerator and freezer
Southeast Senior Service, Juneau Senior Center	1,500	Purchase and install a freezer door
Unity Outreach, North Pole	1,991.90	Tables, chairs, and dishes Freezer
Total	35,273.90	17

Fiscal Year 2006

Agency	Amount (\$)	Purpose
Alaska Addiction Rehabilitation Services, Wasilla	2,000	A slab to house a refrigerator/freezer
Alpha Omega Life Care, Delta Junction	2,000	Refrigerator/freezer and shelving
AWAIC, Anchorage	2,000	Commercial dishwasher, installation, and a shelving unit
Bean's Café, Anchorage	2,000	Food bar
Copper River Native Association, Copper Center	2,000	Refrigerator
Homer Community Food Pantry	2,000	Walk-in refrigerator/freezer
Igiugig Tribal Village Council	1,994.49	An egg incubator, fencing materials, a small water heater, and chicken feed
Joel's Place, Fairbanks	2,000	Commercial refrigerator
Mountain View Baptist Church Food Shelf, Anchorage	2,000	Large freezer
Nome Community Center	1,725.58	Refrigerator and freezer
Port Heiden Food Bank	2,000	Freezer
Spenard Kiddy Drop, Anchorage	1,824.10	Feeding tables and high chairs
The Glory Hole, Juneau	1,000	To repair walk-in cooler
The Salvation Army Mat-Su	1,500	Two freezers and one refrigerator
Valley Open Bible Fellowship, Big Lake	1,730.34	Community Café Upgrade and Expansion Project
Total	29,774.51	15

Fiscal Year 2007

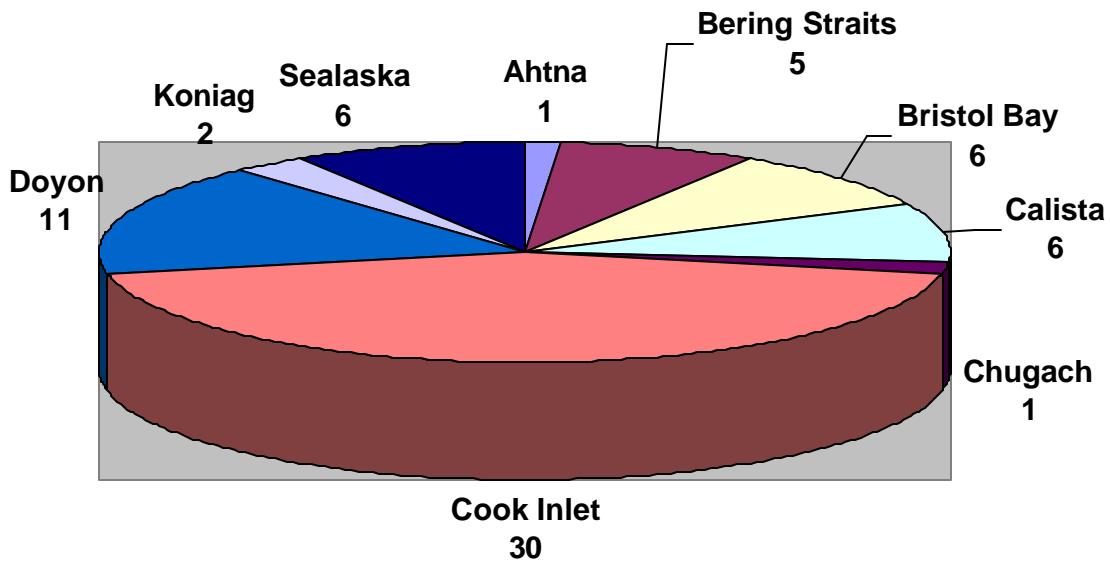
Agency	Amount (\$)	Purpose
Kenai Peninsula Food Bank, Soldotna	2,000	Electrical service upgrade and an improved work area
Kids Café, Anchorage	2,000	Six hundred food carriers
NAMI Juneau	2,000	Refrigerator and freezer

Unalakleet Inuit Community Elders	778.76	Electric meat saw/grinder
Unity Outreach, North Pole	2,000	Equipment and supplies to support the Mobile Catering Van
Wasilla Area Seniors	1,770	Kitchen receptacles and emergency egress lighting installation
Total	10,548.76	6

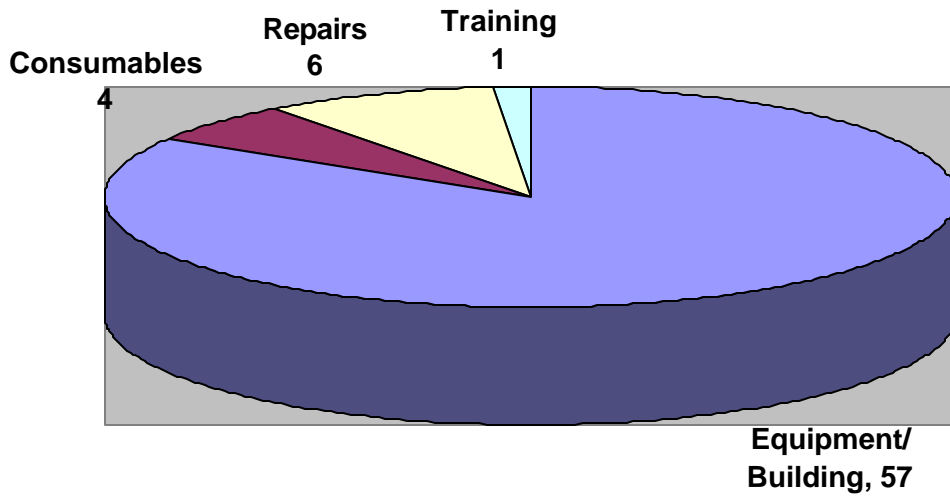
Award Averages

Cash total of all awards	\$142,805.13
Number of awards	68
Average per award	\$2100.08
Number of years awarded	8/13
Average per year	\$17,850.64

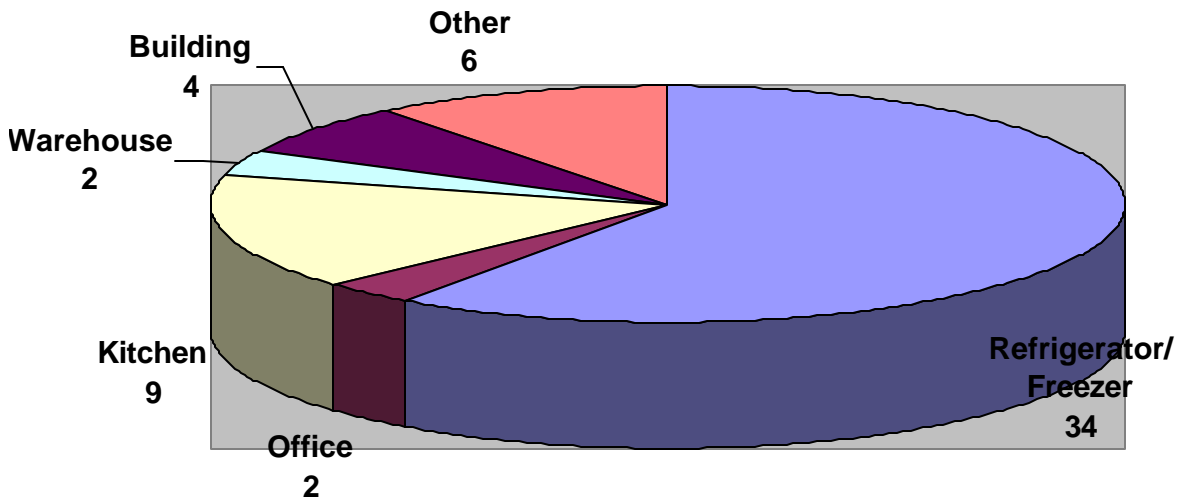
Awards by Region



Award Types



Uses of Equipment/Building Awards



Mini-grant Testimonials

Introduction

Mini-grants are awarded to agencies whose projects will not only make a difference to their operation but also to agencies whose projects will affect the communities they serve. In short, mini-grants are awarded to projects which move the anti-hunger network closer to eliminating hunger in Alaska. In this section, agencies relate in their own words how the mini-grants have helped their organizations as well as their communities.

Alpha Omega Life Care, Delta Junction

Year: FY 2005 & FY 2006

Amount: FY 2005 - \$2,000 & FY 2006 - \$2,000

Purpose: FY 2005 - build a storage unit for food boxes & FY 2006 - refrigerator/freezer and shelving

"Mini-grants have assisted us to pay for our pantry facility, now wholly owned which lives on and is operated from the property of the non-profit social service agency we manage. The building has permitted us to store food boxes when consumers are tardy picking them up on the assigned Saturday. Heretofore, we were required to store the unclaimed boxes in our office space---awkward, to say the least, and, oh yes, inconvenient, too! The building has also provided storage space permitting us to accept donations from other sources, such as closing construction camps and seasonal restaurant closings. This allows us to maintain an inventory and accommodate "emergency issues" for recipients who have immediate need resulting from unforeseen circumstances. The building made it practical for us to request mini grant funding for a new chest freezer and refrigerator, further increasing our capacity to accumulate and store staples for emergency issue. Grants have also purchased shelving for the building.

The food bank/pantry is a known and stable community asset, largely due to mini grants.

Recently a client, who had become unemployed along with her spouse, appeared without appointment at the agency. She reported her daughter to be ill with throat involvement, and asked if we could supply some apple juice, which she could ingest comfortably.

*** Side note here---the agency provides a plethora of programs, and our intake/social workers are sensitive to unstated, undeclared need, and are sensitive to client sensitivities and sometimes reluctance to admit need---nonetheless, we outreach, and inquire, inform, and make it easy for folks to admit need.***

Upon inquiring, we learned that the family was indeed short of certain items, and were able to send them home with enough staples to (hopefully) serve them until their fortunes change for the better. The family was effusively grateful, and a follow up call 10 days later found them hopeful about the future, in better spirits, and without renewed need for food.

This is only a single example of the service we are able to provide regularly. Such service was not possible 2 years ago, with no pantry facility and no cold storage.

Mini-grants have made it possible to expand our community based “food bank” programs, and to make them far more visible and far more professional. We are grateful for the opportunity to apply for these grants.”

AWAIC, Anchorage

Year: FY 2005 & FY 2006

Amount: FY 2005 - \$2,000 & FY 2006 - \$2,000

Purpose: FY 2005 - commercial toaster, other kitchen equipment & FY 2006 - commercial dishwasher, installation, and a shelving unit

“The Alaska Food Coalition’s 2005 mini grant provided us with the opportunity to meet a basic need in the area of shelving, silverware and cooking and service dishes. These items increased our effectiveness in providing quality services and products to the victims residing in our shelter. The shelving created a much needed space in organizing our pantry area.

AWAIC, Inc.’s facility has been at the same location since 1983. Our mission is “to teach people to live and love without violence.” Our core service is our emergency shelter for victims of domestic violence, women and children. Providing basic needs such as shelter and food are part of the core service in meeting the needs of this vulnerable population. The items purchased with the Alaska Food Coalition’s mini grant assist in updating the products we use to ensure their longevity of use based on durability and wear.

The Alaska Food Coalition mini grant allows us to ensure that we have enough kitchen and silver ware for the 52 people that reside in shelter. These types of items can sometimes disappear so it is critical that we keep enough on hand at all times. As such, these funds are critical to our ability to provide quality meals with enough items for all residents to you. The meal plates we use are compartmentalized to allow for appropriate measuring of serving sizes. They can seem a bit institutionalized but are critical for one of our grants that is the primary source of food. The Child and Adult Care Food Program recommend family style meals which are something we do but they also have strong recommendations for portions for different age groups. These trays guide participant in the portion size and are a real success in meeting the needs of our grantor.

The additional shelving in the pantry is critical to our ability to maintain adequate amounts of food onsite for emergency preparedness. A part of our strategic plan is to have made plans for emergency preparedness and the purchase of these simple shelving units has started us towards part of that goal.”

Bristol Bay Elders Action Group, Naknek

Year: FY 2005

Amount: \$2,000

Purpose: Commercial food grinder

“The mini-grant impacts our people very well - when the resources (donated meat) are available. The mini-grant will be very much an influential long-term commitment for our agency as it will service our Elders of three communities. The ability to have ground

meat products will enhance the Elders health and provide for cultural and traditional foods.”

Iqjugig Native Village Council

Year: FY 2005 & FY 2006

Amount: FY 2005 - \$2,000 & FY 2006 - 1,994.49

Purpose: FY 2005 - Commercial freezer and refrigerator & FY 2006 - an egg incubator, fencing materials, a small water heater, and chicken feed

“The mini-grants enhance our ability to store food for long periods of time without having to worry about it going bad (spoiled). This benefits the low income families the most since they do not have the storage capacity to keep perishables fresh for extended periods of time as well as keeping the meats frozen. Residents return the empty egg cartons for reuse and therefore help assure that we will have the eggs ready for the next time they need to take some home.

We utilize the refrigerator to store the chicken eggs as well as perishables that are donated to the village at the end of each summer season from the local lodges. We also store donations from seasonal hunters (moose, caribou) and local lodges (assorted meats) in the freezer, which benefits the elders and low income families through the long winter months. This mini-grant has ties with another mini-grant we received, which was the purchase of feed and equipment to improve the “chicken project”. This has allowed us to keep a fresh stock of eggs for the benefit of the community and residents of other communities as well. When visiting or passing by, residents from other communities take some of the excess eggs we keep in the fridge (which is kept open).

Literally, the whole community has benefited from the mini-grant award. Without it, we would not be able to store the excess of eggs we accumulate from the local chickens as well as the food donations we receive on a yearly basis. In years past, before having the freezer and refrigerator, the food donations did not stay fresh very long due to a lack of proper storage, therefore reducing the capacity of our agency to fight hunger in the community. Furthermore, local residents sometimes order food to be delivered via airplane and are not able to be here at the time of delivery so we store their goods in the freezer and refrigerator until they arrive.”

Seward Senior Center

Year: FY 2005

Amount: \$2,000

Purpose: reach-in refrigerator and freezer

“The center is able to store more perishable foods because of the mini-grants and we are able to accept donations at any time due to enough refrigeration space, therefore keeping food costs down and meals free to those 60 and older. Keeping food costs affordable and manageable with the ability to accept perishable donations at any given time means we are able to accept and serve more fresh fish due to proper refrigeration equipment here at the center.”

Unity Outreach, North Pole

Year: FY 2005 & FY 2007

Amount: FY 2005 - \$1,991.90 & FY 2007 - \$2,000

Purpose: FY 2005 - tables, chairs, and dishes. Freezer & FY 2007 - equipment and supplies to support the Mobile Catering Van

“The mini-grant awards impact clients by having more food on hand and the freezer space helps us feed more people. The tents, tables, and chairs are the nuts and bolts that make the whole operation work. The new equipment is positive and an encouragement to the homeless, street people and the volunteers knowing someone else cares enough to give cash to this very important cause. The mini-grant is also helping us get matching funds from other resources.”

Mini-grants in the Media

Introduction

The message that the mini-grants have a positive impact on agencies and the communities they serve is often conveyed by the media. National, local and 'trade' publications have all featured stories on the mini-grants. While the stories are important in promoting the reputation of The Alaska Food Coalition, they also provide valuable outreach on coalition services to agencies across Alaska. This section presents three stories from wide-ranging publications. The common thread between all the stories is how a mini-grant award increases food distribution.

Joel's Place, Fairbanks

Year: FY 2006

Amount: \$2,000

Purpose: Commercial refrigerator

City Sees Influx of Inter-Faith Volunteers

Presbyterians, Methodists and African Methodist Episcopalians.

It's been raining inter-faith volunteers this summer in Fairbanks -- so much so that there isn't enough work available on the two Habitat for Humanity homes that the volunteers had come here to work on. The flood of volunteer labor isn't going to waste, however: A number of other local faith-based organizations have found themselves the sudden beneficiaries.

"I couldn't send 85 (mostly unskilled) workers to a Habitat house under construction," said Ron Smith, referring to the 85-member team with 55 teenagers, who traveled north from The Presbyterian Church of Westfield, N.J.

So Smith has been coordinating the work crews for the Greater Fairbanks Area Habitat for Humanity and parceling out eager volunteers to help out at other places around town.

Two teen mission teams descended on Joel's Place, a Fairbanks faith-based youth center, in June. First to arrive were 55 young African Methodist Episcopalians from 14 states. They spent a day painting and helping out around the Joel's Place, located on Marika Road. They stayed into the evening to share dinner and a Friday night worship service.

"We danced together. We rocked, we had so much fun," said Joel's Place director Linda Setterberg.

The youth group also brought along donations of personal needs items and contributed \$1,000 to the center.

Last week, a five-member Presbyterian team worked for four days installing cabinetry and restaurant booths and assembling tables and chairs in the

center's soon to be opened Los Niños Café.

"This was an empty room," said Setterberg, motioning around the tall-ceilinged 20-by-40-foot space now filled with a red bench snugged into one wall in contrast to the black and white tiled floor, new tables and chairs and newly installed wooden cabinetry.

Los Niños Café is the latest addition to Joel's Place and is funded in part by a \$20,000 Rasmuson Foundation grant, a \$2,000 Alaska Food Coalition grant, and a lot of volunteer effort and local donations.

The rest of the Joel's Place warehouse home is devoted to an indoor skateboard park, small repair shop and activity center for pool and music.

Elsewhere around town, Smith said, 33 Methodists from West Virginia, Pennsylvania and Ohio were working on a variety of projects, often alongside New Jersey Presbyterians.

The list of completed projects includes a greenhouse for the Presbyterian Hospitality House, some renovations and door installations at the Salvation Army Center, a newly built and painted deck for a South Fairbanks woman, floor joist installation at the new Love INC building site, various construction tasks at the two new Habitat houses, structural work at the Habitat warehouse on Phillips Field Road, and split and stacked wood for the Love INC firewood program.

In addition, mission team members helped out daily at the Stone Soup Café at the First United Methodist Church.

Local churches throughout the community put up the various denominational visitors during their stay.

Smith said that team leaders have been telling him that Fairbanksans has given them the warmest welcome they have ever received.

For Julie Bennett, 18, part of a five-person Presbyterian crew from New Jersey working at Joel's Place, it was her fourth summer on the road helping others. Bennett has also traveled on mission trips to Tijuana, Mexico; Rockford, Ill; and Arcadia, Fla.

The teens pay for their own plane fare and raise money to help purchase materials and food for the trip.

Chris Miller, 16, has been learning some basic carpentry skills.

He sagely observed, after a few days on the job, that "There are many problems that frequently arise in carpentry."

By day four, with the guidance of others, Miller reported he was no longer stripping screws with the electric drill.

Glen DuMont, a church elder and corporate attorney, has been chaperoning

Presbyterian high school mission trips from New Jersey for the past eight years.

"This is the most rewarding week each year for me," DuMont said. "You get to share any time, talents and treasures you have with people."

Source: Fairbanks Daily News-Miner (Alaska), Mary Beth Smetzer, July 3, 2006

Valley Open Bible Fellowship, Big Lake

Year: FY 2006

Amount: \$1,730.34

Purpose: Community Café Upgrade and Expansion Project

Room at the Table

In the beginning. Valley Open Bible Church in Big Lake, Alaska, began as a home group in 1997. When the pastor and associate pastor died in a tragic head-on collision in 2003, Pastor Ed Blocker, 46, and his family moved to Big Lake to build community, even though residents want quite the opposite.

Asian pork noodles, cashew chicken and Napa cabbage sound like items on the menu of a trendy Asian cafe. But in the tiny sanctuary of Valley Open Bible Fellowship in Big Lake, Alaska, 60 unchurched townspeople dine on the cuisine-for free-with cake for dessert.

The church of nearly 50 attendees has found a way to reach the area's many "get-off-the-gridders," those adamant about escaping their pasts by avoiding contact with others.

Most of the nearly 3,000 local documented households, along with the "invisible" ones, languish. Throughout the area, one- or two-room cabins, old mobile homes and even camp trailers or motor homes molder through the minus 40-degree winters. Many in Big Lake lack running water or indoor toilets. Some rely on generators for power.

Although construction company owners, oil rig workers or highly paid commuters from Anchorage own exceptional homes on Johnson Lake, the rest, mostly seasonal and retail workers, go without even necessities.

So Valley Open Bible Fellowship provides a free and unique menu every Wednesday evening. All meals emerge from a 9- by 10-foot kitchen, just large enough for a stove, small cabinet and refrigerator on one side, and a three compartment sink and dishwasher on the other. Visitors dine on portable tables in the sanctuary of the 40- by 50foot wood church, which has a partial second floor for office space.

Sitting across from people at the dinners, just chatting, has brought people to Christ and the church.

"Evangelism and outreach are the primary thrusts of the dinners," Pastor Ed Blocker says. But it takes commitment from members like Andrea Thistle.

"Anti-hunger issues are dear to my heart, and I like to cook with a servant's heart," Thistle says. Every week, she shuttles in her Subaru Forester to the Food Bank of Alaska, an hour's drive away in Anchorage, to pick up food. And because of her grant-writing prowess, the Alaska Food Coalition funded new coffee mugs, silverware, bowls, etc. A \$200 monthly donation from the Lion's Club and a partnership with Food Bank of Alaska also help make the full-course meals possible for the church.

Thistle devises the menus ahead of time or while shopping at the food bank. Dinners range from broiled salmon and halibut, pasta in white sauce with French bread, Shepherd's Pie or soup, to a Mexican night with enchilada pie, tacos, refried beans and green salad. Followed always, of course, by dessert.

In March, the 9-year-old church of young to middle-aged families and a few retirees put forth even more effort to feed the area's children during spring break. Many children would go hungry without the free meals received through the school's low-income lunch program.

So, through sandwich boards on the main highways and fliers at grocery stores and the post office, Valley Open Bible told its community it would help. More than 45 families came to the church all week for lunch. And in thanks, the Big Lake Chamber of Commerce awarded the church a plaque for its outstanding community service.

Because of its success, the church plans to provide another spring break lunch program next year, and hopes this summer to add brunches a few days every week, with free lunches during its Vacation Bible School.

The ministry is neither extravagant, nor unheard of but with a lot of commitment and a little food, Valley Open Bible is filling the hearts and stomachs of its neighbors.

Source: Outreach Magazine, Mary Elizabeth Hopkins, July/August 2006



Feeding more than stomachs: In Big Lake, Alaska, Valley Open Bible's 50 members use food for practical and spiritual purposes. After collecting food (bottom left) from food banks, volunteers make free lunches for children on spring break (top; bottom right) and weekly Wednesday dinners for the whole community—all in an effort to make friends. Photos: Jeff Schultz

Igiugig Native Village Council

Year: FY 2006

Amount: FY 2006 - 1,994.49

Purpose: FY 2006 - an egg incubator, fencing materials, a small water heater, and chicken feed

Mini-Grant Helps Maintain Chicken Farm in Igiugig, AK

In the fall of 2004, Igiugig Tribal Village Council started a chicken farm with about 40 chickens and a rooster. The chickens produced an average of two dozen eggs a day. Soon there were enough eggs to feed the 50 residents in the community, to the point that everybody stopped buying eggs at the store; excess eggs were taken to other nearby communities, e.g., Iliamna, Kokhanok, Levelock, King Salmon, etc., and distributed to help feed low income families.

During the course of winter, egg production declined considerably because of inclement weather and a lack of proper accommodations (e.g., a hen house). Most of the chickens the community started out with were two years old or older, and the older chickens showed the most decrease in egg production. Some chickens did not survive the winter. Egg production declined so much that several chickens were processed for meat consumption and distributed to help feed low income families.

In the spring of 2005, two dozen chicken eggs were given to the local school to incubate in an incubator they had borrowed from another school within the Lake and Peninsula Borough School District. This resulted in about 20 baby chicks that were unfortunately killed by an animal attack.

In the summer of 2005, the community built a new hen house and widened the fenced off yard for the chickens to roam freely. In the fall, it received additional chickens and rooster and experienced similar, but less drastic, results as the first year.

This fall Igiugig Tribal Village Council will receive 20-30 chickens and a rooster. Now they will be able to sustain a population of chickens for years to come thanks to a new incubator they purchased with a mini-grant received from the Alaska Food Coalition. Additionally, they plan to minimize chicken feeding costs by utilizing leftover foods from the community households and local lodges in the summer; reducing the amount of wet garbage going into the landfill.

Source: Food Bank of Alaska Food Update, Gregory Nothstine, August 2006



Baby chicks holding facility



Chicken coop and feed storage facility



Chicken coop's "backyard"



Inside of chicken coop

Mini-grants - the Future

The evidence presented in this report illustrates the effectiveness mini-grants have had on grantee agencies and their communities. Specifically, the mini-grants have enabled anti-hunger agencies to distribute not only more food but a wider variety of food as documented by Seward Senior Center and Bristol Bay Elders Action Group. The impact this has had on the welfare of communities can be seen on the individual level as related by Alpha Omega Life Care or on a whole community level as shown by Igiugig Native Village Council's ingenious establishment of a sustainable protein source. Mini-grants also provide vital material support to agencies such as Unity Outreach, Valley Open Bible Fellowship and AWAIC, which means that they are able to run their entire operation much more efficiently.

With a total of sixty-eight awards in eight years, Alaska Food Coalition mini-grants have replicated these successes sixty-eight times, far outweighing the \$142,805.13 in expenditure. Although the majority of mini-grants have been awarded to agencies in the Cook Inlet region, the geographic dispersal of mini-grants is impressive. Of the twelve regional corporation areas in Alaska only three sparsely populated ones (Aleut, Arctic Slope and NANA) have not received awards.

In FY 2007 funding for the mini-grants dropped from \$30,000 to \$12,000. This was due to the The Alaska Food Coalition's need to fund the expansion of the part-time coordinator position into a full-time post. In an attempt to make up the shortfall, the coalition unsuccessfully pursued a grant opportunity from the UPS Foundation in FY 2006. In light of the importance the mini-grants hold for small charitable food distribution organizations and the communities they serve, the coalition should continue to find new sources of grant money. This may take the form of matching monies provided by private foundations and coalition staff and officers should pursue this possibility.

Mini-grants and The Alaska Food Coalition

The mini-grant awards underscore the coalition's commitment to physical capacity building. The Capacity-building Project¹ being undertaken by the coalition is a comprehensive study of the anti-hunger system in Alaska, and attempts to identify gaps in service and make recommendations for expansion of existing anti-hunger agencies. Funding of the recommendations will be explored in FY 2008. The mini-grant awards illustrate to potential financial backers of the project that The Alaska Food Coalition is dedicated to the physical needs of anti-hunger agencies across the state. In addition, the mini-grant awards process permits the coalition to gauge the seriousness of physical capacity needs across Alaska as well as understand the types and dispersal of need. This information provides a powerful supplement to the data being collected in the Capacity-building Project - powerful because the requests come from the programs themselves.

¹ For more information see: 'Physical Capacity Data of Charitable Food Programs in Alaska' and 'Capacity-building Project – 2007 Results', available from: <http://www.alaskafood.org/research.shtml>

Conclusion

In conclusion, the mini-grant awards provide measurable benefits to the coalition, the anti-hunger agencies that receive them and the communities they serve. The coalition's consistent message of building physical capacity is maintained through the annual awards and the data gathered from applications, permits a better understanding of the situation regarding agency facilities and equipment. Throughout the responses from grantees and in the media stories, qualitative data shows that mini-grants not only positively impact food distribution but also demonstrates that the benefits are sustainable. It is possible that responding agency representatives were more inclined to report favorably to the grantor; nevertheless, the available evidence points to the seriousness with which The Alaska Food Coalition should strengthen its work on physical capacity. This can be done by looking to new funds for the mini-grant awards in addition to the pursuit of a grant request for the Capacity-building Project recommendations. Finally, the mini-grants highlight one of the coalition's organizational strengths - that it has an established ability to administer effective grants to restore and boost physical capacity among anti-hunger agencies in Alaska - and that it is the appropriate organization to be funded to undertake such work.

Appendix 1 – Grantee Abstracts

Fiscal Year 2002

Eddie Hoffman Senior Center, Bethel

We need AFC grant support to purchase a new Hobart sanitizer for our kitchen. We prepare approximately 2,000 meals per month that are eaten on site or are delivered to homebound elders. This volume of food service generates much use of kitchen preparation equipment as well as kitchen service materials such as trays, glass and cup wear and utensils that must be washed then sanitized. At this point, dishes are manually washed and sanitized in hot water with purex added. A new Hobart Sanitizer was quoted to me, via phone, to cost \$3,437, not including freight, from Anchorage. I am requesting \$1,700, or approximately half the cost of the item from the Alaska Food Coalition. I can provide documentation to you from the supplier.

Fairbanks Community Food Bank

The Fairbanks Community Food Bank partners with the Alaska Cooperative Extension Service to provide quarterly baby food classes. These classes offer 2 hours of instruction, a free baby food mill, and at least 50 pounds of nutritious food for households with infants. The request for \$1200 would fund baby food mills at \$15 each for 80 students (4 classes with 20 students).

Fairbanks Rescue Mission

The request is for \$500.00 to cover the cost of annual fees for Grant Station.Com Inc.

Fairbanks Rescue Mission

We need two portable salad bars. The total amount is \$1200.00. The amount requested is \$1000.00.

Food Bank of Alaska

Food Bank of Alaska requests grant support for the purchase a new strapping machine for preparing by-pass mail shipments. We have located a gently used machine available for \$3,250. Strapping materials for one year will cost approximately \$980.00. We are requesting \$1,000 from Alaska Food Coalition to be put towards these items.

Kenai Peninsula Food Bank, Soldotna

This request is to obtain one rolling counter door and one rolling grill at a cost of \$2,980 (\$2,295 materials and \$685 labor to install door). The doors are needed to facilitate an education program for Kenai Peninsula Food Bank clients and other community members. The doors are necessary to separate the soup kitchen from the dining area which would be used for classes while meal preparation is in progress. This separation would enable KPFB to fully utilize its facility and target the most needy, those who are already coming for food assistance. Documentation of the bid on the doors from Systems of Alaska will be faxed to FBA. Classes will be offered throughout the year to

take advantage of seasonal harvests, hunting and fishing opportunities. Winter classes will focus on budgeting, responsible money management and nutrition. Spring classes will cover gardening as well as subsistence, personal use and sport fishing regulations for salmon, clams and other seafood, fishing opportunities, skills and equipment. Classes will also include training in the proper care and handling of food fish. Summer classes will offer information on identifying edible native plants and berries, preparation and preservation of garden produce, berries, fish and game (freezing, drying, canning). Late summer/early fall classes will cover hunting regulations, abundance and availability of wild game. The "After the Kill" portion of this class will focus on how to clean and butcher wild game, especially moose so families can utilize the 'road kill' program. Late fall classes will address general nutrition and meal planning on a budget while winter classes will focus on budgeting and money management. The education program is designed to help disadvantaged individuals and families become more self reliant.

Kodiak Baptist Mission

Kodiak Island Food Bank requests grant support to replace the broken scale utilized to weigh food in and out of the food bank. Total cost of a new scale and shipping is 1036.00. (See additional pages for documentation).

Latino Lions Club, Anchorage

The funding will be used to buy two freezers to be used to store excess frozen goods between distribution dates from one month to the next. Total cost is \$599.99 each equaling \$1199.98 for two 22 cu. Ft. chest type freezers.

Nome Community Center

Funds are being requested from the Alaska Food Coalition to assist in preparing a new location for the Food Bank in Nome. At the present time, the Food Bank is located in a back room of staff housing. The area (15' X 12') is very small and cramped. Moving to the new location will more than double our work and storage space. The physical structure of the building will give us better access for loading and unloading food supplies. The site is next door to the administration building, thus allowing us to monitor the building and also respond to emergency requests when they are received outside the regular operating hours of the food bank. The site is centrally located in town. Having all the food stored in one location will also allow for more accurate reporting with fewer errors on the mandatory inventory reports.

The total cost of the move to the new location is \$2,596; of that amount, \$1,250 is requested from Alaska Food Coalition.

Wasilla Area Seniors

For housing in Juneau from March 15 through March 17 for the Food Coalition of Alaska State Meeting. Cost per night with tax \$95.20. Total for two nights \$190.40, my request is for two nights. Third night, food and other expenses to be paid out of pocket.

Fiscal Year 2005

Alakanuk Tribal Council

This request is for the Alakanuk Tribal Council to purchase a refrigerator and freezer to increase food capacity. The food bank currently operates without a refrigerator and with limited freezer space. The lack of freezer space is a limiting factor in how much food the Tribal Office is able to distribute. At times, there is not enough frozen food to distribute to everyone.

Alpha Omega Life Care, Delta Junction

Alpha Omega is requesting funding to purchase a small outdoor store unit to store CSFP and TEFAP items. As Alpha Omega's client load has increased dramatically, they find that some individuals are unable to pick up their boxes on the distribution day, which is the day the boxes are transported from the Fairbanks Community Food Bank. Currently, unclaimed boxes are stored in the director's office, an arrangement that is becoming untenable as Alpha Omega continues to grow. An outbuilding, which will be purchased, insulated, and heated with the requested funding, would solve these problems. The building will be constructed with volunteer labor from Alpha Omega. In their request, Alpha Omega explains their heavy utilization of volunteers, and also provides many letters of support.

AWAIC, Anchorage

Abused Women's Aid in Crisis (AWAIC) is requesting funding for a variety of items for their kitchen including a commercial toaster, shelving and work tables, dinner service ware and disposable gloves, hairnets and aprons. Most of these items are requested to replace existing items, which have either broken or been lost. These items are for the kitchen in their Safe Shelter. *The total cost for this project is \$4,077, \$2,000 of which is requested from the AFC.*

Bethel Lions Club

Bethel Lions Club is seeking funding to funding to "foam insulate and put exterior protective siding and a sloped roof on the recycled shipment storage van (they) use to store the donated food". In rural Alaska, recycled shipments vans are often used as storage units; however, over time they will rust and develop leaks. The Bethel Lions Club's van is showing signs of developing a leak, a problem that would be rectified with a new roof and protective siding. The Lions' heat the van, but because it is not insulated items stored against the wall will freeze. Insulating the van will allow them to save money on heating costs and to be able to store all types of food against the walls.

Bristol Bay Elders Action Group, Naknek

This is a request to purchase a commercial food grinder to process game meat for the senior community. The senior community has been offered game meat but must turn it down, due to an inability to process this meat. The grinder, which would be operated by volunteers, will allow them to process this meat. There are 100 seniors in the community and 7 residing in the Elder's Home. In addition to providing a valuable

source of protein for the seniors, the game meat would provide the seniors with food similar to their traditional subsistence diet.

Eddie Hoffman Senior Center, Bethel

The Senior Center is requesting funding to pay for a “deep undercounter refrigerator to store the amount of food necessary to serve the 80-120 seniors that are fed each day of the week at the Center”. The current refrigerator is over 20 years old, may break imminently, constantly emits an annoying squealing noise, and is not large enough. The Senior Center has been offered more perishable foods but to be able to accept these donations will require more refrigerated storage space. The Senior Center will pay for the shipment cost.

Covenant House Alaska, Anchorage

Covenant House is requesting \$2,350 to replace the inner door of the walk-in refrigeration unit at their shelter. Covenant House’s freezer door does not properly close, causing the defrost units to engage. This causes constant fluctuations in temperature, increase wear and tear on the equipment and higher utility and maintenance costs. They have been advised that replacement of the door is cheaper than constant repair of the situation. (Last year, they had 13 service calls for this issue.)

Emmonak Tribal Council

The Emmonak Tribal Council is requesting funding to purchase two freezers to store subsistence foods as well as frozen foods received from FBA. The freezers will allow them not to waste subsistence goods and will reduce spoilage on frozen foods.

Igiugig Tribal Village Council

This request is for funds to purchase a commercial freezer and refrigerator for the village of Igiugig. Every year, commercial recreational lodge owners, as well as hunters and fishermen, donate food to the village for distribution to residents. However, much of this must be thrown away due to lack of cold storage space. A freezer and refrigerator would allow the Village to store this food, providing residents with an important source of food throughout the winter. While the Village does not have a formal distribution, it follows a longstanding tradition of sharing with the less fortunate. *The total cost for this project is \$2531.32, \$2,000 of which is requested from the AFC.*

Kenai Peninsula Food Bank, Soldotna

KPFB requests grant support for the purchase of kitchen equipment including freezer and cooler shelving, a cooler, stainless steel pots with lids, and anti-fatigue mats. Currently chill and freeze items are stored in stackable crates. Agency representatives and employees must lift the heavy crates to access items in the lower crates. The shelving units will alleviate this problem. The cooler will be used for surplus perishable items not needed in other distribution programs. These are currently offered to soup kitchen diners in a tote with ice on the bottom, but could be much more conveniently placed in a new cooler. The Soup Kitchen prepares soup for almost 2,000 diners a month. The pots they currently use are well worn and cause soups to burn easily. *The total cost for this project is \$2,250, \$2,000 of which is requested from the AFC.*

Kids Café, Anchorage

Kids' Café is requesting funding for several items for their sites. They want to have the site supervisors obtain Safe Server certification, purchase menu boards, purchase donor recognition plaques and print brochures for Kid's Day 2005. Each item is for 10 Kids Café sites. For example, they are requesting \$250 for 10 menu boards at \$25 each. The donor recognition plaques will recognize Kids' Café's corporate founders.

Kodiak Island Food Bank

The compressor unit on KIFB's walk-in freezer is banging loudly and their technician indicates it could break imminently. They are requesting up to \$3200 to repair the freezer. If they do not receive this funding, they will have to make the repair by using their training budget and other funds. KIFB is the primary food distribution organization on Kodiak Island.

New Hope on the Last Frontier

New Hope is requesting funding to purchase a two door glass refrigeration unit. This unit will be used for their client choice food distribution. New Hope operates a very popular client choice food distribution program that has seen a large increase in numbers. They currently use household refrigerators for storing and distributing their chill items. A glass door refrigeration unit would be larger, more efficient, and allow clients and staff to see what is inside without constantly opening the door. As they continue to grow, they need to find more efficient and effective ways of serving their clients and a glass door refrigerator would be a step in that direction.

Nome Community Center

The Nome Community Center is requesting \$2,000 to purchase a new refrigerator and freezer. The freezer they currently use is supplied by the city and located in another building. On distribution day, volunteers must transport the food to the distribution site. A new freezer, located on site, would reduce the amount of volunteer labor required.

Seward Senior Center

The Senior Center is requesting \$2,000 toward the purchase of a reach in refrigerator and freezer. Without a new refrigerator, the Center would have to turn down food donations due to lack of refrigerated storage space. The Center provides meals-on-wheels and aggregate meals to seniors in Seward and Moose Pass. *The total cost for this project is \$4,085, \$2,000 of which is requested from the AFC.*

Southeast Senior Service, Juneau Senior Center

SESS is requesting funding to purchase and install a 36 inch by 80 inch freezer door which will replace the current door. The current door, built as part of the Center in 1983 "has become rusted in two places, where it fills with condensation and freezes, causing the door to expand to the point where it cannot be closed". All meals offered by SESS, either for the meals-on-wheels program or served at one of three locations in town, are prepared at the Juneau Senior Center. 26,000 meals are prepared annually.

Unity Outreach, North Pole

UCC operates a street tent service every Sunday, year-round, where they feed approximately 120 people. Much of their equipment has been used for 10 years and needs to be replaced. They are requesting funding for a variety of items such as tables, chairs and dishes for this program. They also are requesting a freezer which will help preserve food in the summer, and allow them to accept an increased variety of donated food. The equipment will also be used at the transitional housing facility targeted to open in December, 2005.

Fiscal Year 2006

Alaska Addiction Rehabilitation Services, Wasilla

Our project is to build a slab to house a refrigerator/freezer which will be used to store food for our residential substance abuse treatment program which, in 2004, served 80 indigent clients, and surplus perishables for our community food redistribution program. Nugen's Ranch receives surplus food items from various wholesalers and other agencies in support of our program, to supplement our food costs. We then redistribute to the public the portion of those items not used at the Ranch.

Alpha Omega Life Care, Delta Junction

Alpha Omega Life Care, Inc. partners with the Fairbanks Food Bank as an outreach or satellite distribution center, bringing to and distributing in Delta Junction nearly 3 tons of food each month. In 2005, a 12' x 16', insulated, metal roof storage and distribution center facility was put into operation on the premises. This facility also serves as a mini food bank to permit storing donated food, serving those who do not qualify for either CSFP or TEFAP programs, homeless, stranded itinerants, disabled, unemployed and other emergencies. The storage/distribution facility, though functional, needs refinement, such as: interior paint, signage, floor covering, permanent electric hook up, more shelf space, improved parking for delivery truck and client access, and new refrigerator and freezer units. Our choices for immediate projects are the latter two; refrigerator/freezer and shelving.

AWAIC, Anchorage

AWAIC operates a full serve kitchen under an Institutional permit from the Municipality of Anchorage every day of the year for participants to provide meals in a group setting for our 52 bed emergency shelter. We have identified a sanitation project to be our highest priority at this time with regard to our food service program.

The sanitation project will include a commercial dishwasher for our kitchen, installation of the unit and a shelving unit for the installation of the dishwasher.

Beans Café, Anchorage

Beans Café is looking at adding a Food Bar to the already existing food line. It would be cost effective; clients could choose what foods they would eat. Also the Food Bar would offer a healthier and more nutritious alternative to the clients. The Food Bar provides the option of serving hot or cold foods which would offer a variety of foods to the clients.

Copper River Native Association, Copper Center

CRNA proposes to purchase a 72 cu. ft. refrigerator for use in the CRNA Food Bank Program. The refrigerator will allow for use in our Food Bank Program to keep more food for our clients and prevent spoilage.

Homer Community Food Pantry

We have a unique opportunity to revolutionize our food handling system and therefore we are requesting grant support toward the purchase of materials for a walk-in refrigerator/freezer. The completion of this project would enable our agency to operate far more efficiently. We would be able to increase the quantity and improve the quality of the food that we distribute to the hungry. The number of needy people in the area is increasing steadily and we are outgrowing our present cold storage equipment-much of which should have been retired long ago.

Igiugig Tribal Village Council

The Igiugig Tribal Village Council plans to utilize the funds obtained from this grant to support the purchase of materials necessary to improve the living conditions and egg productivity of the chickens which the Village currently supports. The residents of Igiugig do not have ready access to many common items found in Anchorage and other larger Alaskan cities; support of this project allows native Alaskans and community members to obtain healthy, organics foods which are high in protein and Omega-3 acids, shown to be very beneficial nutritionally. Materials to be purchased under this grant include the following: an egg incubator, fencing materials, a small water heater, and chicken feed, etc.

Joel's Place, Fairbanks

We recently moved into a new location that did not have a kitchen. We are in the process of renovation and have targeted the kitchen as our top priority this winter. We would use the funding to purchase a commercial refrigerator, to replace a used residential refrigerator. It will help us keep fresh food for our after school program and meals that we serve to area youth. Currently we feed 50 youth a hot meal on Friday nights. We expect to increase to 100 meals when our kitchen is completed.

Mountain View Baptist Church Food Shelf, Anchorage

We are requesting help to purchase a large freezer to take the place of our old upright that is about 20 years old and no longer reliable or repairable. Our refrigeration equipment had all been donated-3 refrigerator-freezers and the defunct upright freezer. The requested freezer will enable us to purchase larger quantities of frozen foods when available from Food Bank of AK, and feel confident that they will stay frozen and usable until distribute. Our number of clients is increasing every month, and additional storage space is vital to our being able to serve them with healthy and properly stored frozen meats and other staples.

Nome Community Center

To purchase a new refrigerator and freezer for the Food Bank. Currently most frozen food is stored at the Senior Center (large walk in freezer) and the purchase of these two items would allow us to keep more frozen and cold items on site. The last grant was used to repair the large walk in freezer at the Senior Center.

Port Heiden Food Bank

We are planning on installing a freezer in to our storage room. We have very limited space for freeze at his time. If we purchased a freezer solely for Food Bank that will allow us to have more freeze on hand for our clients.

Spenard Kiddy Drop, Anchorage

Our proposed project consists of feeding tables and high chairs for our infants and toddlers. There are many guidelines on the condition and design of feeding tables for infants and toddlers, especially children who have special feeding needs. We currently feed the infants and toddlers in shifts due to much of our equipment being in disrepair, we desperately need to replace our feeding tables, high chairs and chairs which allow us to feed more children at our center.

The Glory Hole, Juneau

The Glory Hole, Juneau's emergency shelter and soup kitchen, feeds hot meals to 150-200 people/day from our commercial kitchen and distributes about 15 supplemental food boxes/week to people in need. Our walk-in cooler is in dire need of repair, as the evaporator coil is on its last legs. Without a working cooler, we will not be able to feed hungry people and provide supplemental food boxes.

The Salvation Army Mat-Su

The project we are proposing is to purchase 2 freezers and 1 refrigerator for our food bank program at The Salvation Army her in Palmer. One of the food banks in the borough ceased their operation in June of 2005. Since that time we have seen an increase in our assistance given each month. We are using donated, used freezers and refrigerators and with the increase in cases each month, we do not have adequate space for frozen and refrigerated foods.

Valley Open Bible Fellowship, Big Lake

Valley Open Bible Fellowship is seeking funding for our Community Café Upgrade and Expansion Project. We would use these funds to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of our efforts in offering free meals to the public. If allowed to expand we will be able to handle an increase in the number of days meals are offered, and supplement our services to include a food pantry.

Fiscal Year 2007

Kenai Peninsula Food Bank, Soldotna

The proposed project consists of two different focus areas-one part for partial funding of an electrical service upgrade and the other for an improved work area. The Kenai Peninsula Food Bank's electrical service requires upgrading due to the amount of electricity required for all of our equipment including freezers and coolers. Oftentimes electrical breakers require "flipping" due to our required usage. The current electrical service is a single phase 200A. Future equipment needs require a three phase service. Reliable electrical service will assure safe handling of perishable and frozen food products. Now perishables are sometimes stored outdoors for a short before clients take them home to hungry Kenai Peninsula residents. The Homer Electric service upgrade projected cost will be honored until June 15, 2007. This project can be completed this fall as long as non-frozen ground conditions exist.

Kids Café, Anchorage

Kid's Café would like to provide more hot meals to the children at our sites during the winter months. The sites we serve are all located in low income areas of Anchorage. Many of the children would not receive supper if not for our program.

We are asking for funds to help purchase six hundred food carriers made by Cambro. These food carriers will help us deliver hot suppers to as many as six new sites.

Our target date to switch many of our sites from sack to hot food is December 1, 2006. The sooner we can acquire this equipment the sooner we can switch to hot suppers, which will include a meat, a vegetable, bread and juice.

Our staff, kitchen, and vehicle needs are all in place for this transition. The last component of the plan is acquiring the food carriers.

NAMI, Juneau

Polaris House is a clubhouse model program. Polaris House, as with all clubhouse model programs, is a therapeutic community composed of both people who are recovering from mental illness and generalist staff who work with the program. Work, both as voluntary service within the club and as paid employment in the community, is the focus of Polaris House. Right of membership, include the choice in type of work activities or whether or not to work at all, choice in selection of a staff worker, and a lifetime right of re-enter and community support services. Rights of membership are balanced by member responsibilities. Members are expected to assist in operation of Polaris House by taking on essential tasks, changes to typical provide-recipient role in mental health services. Polaris House sends a clear message to members that they are capable, competent and needed.

Work in the clubhouse, whether it is clerical, data input, food preparation or reaching out to fellow members, provides the core healing process. Every opportunity provided is the result of the efforts of the members and staff, who work side by side, in a unique partnership. One of the most important steps to take toward greater independence is support so members can gain employment in the community.

Members receive help in securing housing, advancing their education, obtaining quality medical and psychiatric care and maintaining government benefits. Another important support in any clubhouse program is the food program that is certainly an important part of Polaris House. Polaris House now serves 72 members with 40%-50% of our membership being homeless. Most, if not all, of our membership lives on a fixed income and often do not have enough food to meet their needs. The percentage of our membership that is homeless, struggles on a daily basis to meet their most basic needs. Hunger and where to access and prepare food are major issues. Polaris House provides enough food to serve between 400-500 meals per month. We have recently moved into a new location and our membership has doubled. The new building does not have a kitchen area so we are in the process of building a kitchen/break room; however the refrigerator we have is on its last leg. We do not have a freezer, which would help tremendously. The addition of a new refrigerator and freezer will not only improve the storage of perishable food but will continue to help us serve hungry people for many years to come.

Unalakleet Inuit Community Elders

I am applying for this grant to use the funds to purchase an electric meat saw/grinder. The meat saw/grinder would be used to process locally caught game such as moose or caribou. The meat will be cut up into stew meat, steaks, roasts, ground, and any other way the meat may be cut. Currently we receive small amounts of wild game because we do not have the capability of processing large amounts of meat except by hand. There are only two cooks hired to feed 50+ elders and it is difficult to find the time to work on the meat by hand because of the busy work schedule. The two cooks only work from 9:00 am until 2:00 pm and they are responsible for cooking, preparing meals for delivery and pick up and then the clean up afterwards. If our program had a meat saw we could process the donations of locally caught game and be able to serve it many different ways. Our program, which not stated before serves free lunches Monday through Friday to elders who are 60 years of age or older. With the addition of a piece of equipment like a meat saw, we wouldn't have to rely on purchasing beef because a meat saw would allow us to replace the meals we would normally prepare with beef. It would be more cost effective because the meat processed with a meat saw would be donated and not bought. In addition, Caribou and moose would be healthier than beef for the elders to eat. The caribou is usually hunted from November until April. Moose season is open in August, September and December. The meat saw would be used beginning in November and the processed meat would be stored in a freezer donated by the local IRA.

Unity Outreach, North Pole

We are requesting funding to support the Mobile Catering Van. Funding needed for Equipment and Supplies. A Mobile Catering Van & Equipment and supplies will expand our services to feed the hungry more often through our established Street Tent Ministries in the winter months. This project will also enable us to be mobile, and reach more people during the week. This project expands our Catering abilities and helps finance the Street Tent Ministries on Sundays and our new Culinary training classes starting in December 2006, and help us employ and job place more of our clients.

Equipment needed one GMC 2006 16' Step Van (Catering Van) soon to be purchased. The Construction of our Mobile Catering Van will need to have an installer to install and winterize the Van: Equipment such as; generator, counters, shelves, Industrial gas stove/fan, sink & plumbing, kitchen equipment, heating elements, coffee machine and supplies.

Wasilla Area Seniors

The project is "Wasilla Senior Center Kitchen Receptacles and Emergency Egress Lighting Installation." We have three bids from local electricians and will use the lowest bidder if we successfully acquire the funds. The scope of deliverables includes the following:

- 1) Installation of two new 120 volt receptacles at the west wall of kitchen supervisor's office.
- 2) Installation of two new 120 volt receptacles at the exterior wall of kitchen supervisor's office.
- 3) Installation of one new 120 volt GFCI receptacle at the central island countertop.
- 4) Installation of two new 120 volt emergency egress light fixtures, one each at the east and the west walls.
- 5) Installation of new GFCI circuit breaker in existing kitchen power distribution panel.
- 6) Installation of all enclosures, devices, conduits, raceways, cables and conductors required for new receptacles and fixtures.
- 7) Terminations of all required conductors to new devices and to existing power panel.
- 8) Testing and verification of satisfactory operation of all devices.

This proposal will help Wasilla Area Seniors, Inc. to fight hunger by having proper electrical receptacles in place to plug in our home-delivery meal carriers to ensure the proper heat or cool temperature is attained.

Also the emergency egress lighting is needed in what is otherwise a very dark kitchen when our electricity fails. The kitchen is equipped with gas appliances, so if staff can have adequate light during a power outage, no meals will be missed.

Once grant funds are secured, the project would be completed within two to three months.

Appendix 2 – Forms

THE ALASKA FOOD COALITION



FISCAL YEAR 2007 MINI-GRANT APPLICATION

Part 1

Please complete the following information.

- i. Date of application: _____

- ii. Name of individual writing this request: _____

- iii. Name of person to contact regarding this request: _____

- iv. Organization: _____

- v. Address: _____

- vi. Phone and Fax numbers: _____

- vii. E-mail: _____

- viii. Total cost of project: \$ _____

- ix. Amount requested from The Alaska Food Coalition: \$ _____

THE DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS IS SEPTEMBER 30, 2006

b. Please respond to the following four questions or statements. Answer yes or no and add a sentence or two explaining your answer if necessary. Please remember that The Alaska Food Coalition will only fund projects which satisfy the following criteria. If you are not sure whether your agency or project will qualify, please contact the Alaska Food Coalition Coordinator for assistance.

i. Is the agency involved in anti-hunger work? Yes No

ii. Is the funding requested for a capital project that will have long-term impact on the agency's ability to feed hungry people? Yes No

iii. Will the agency provide 20% of the total project costs, either in the form of funding or an in-kind donation? Yes No

iv. The agency was not awarded an Alaska Food Coalition mini-grant in fiscal year 2006 (July 2005 - June 2006). Yes No

Part 3 – Project Review Criteria

a. Please answer the following questions regarding your proposed project.

i. For what purpose are you requesting grant support?

ii. Explain to what extent the proposed project will allow your agency to distribute more or different foods, or in the case of repair work, maintain your current level of operation.

iii. Describe the need which caused you to write this request. Please refer to a demonstrated, specific need (example: a dramatic increase in food pantry's client load over a short period of time).

- iv. Explain how the proposed project is central to your agency's work of feeding hungry Alaskans.

- v. Identify and discuss the budget for the proposed project. Please be as specific as possible and be sure to discuss how you plan to supply 20% of the project costs. You may reference enclosed documentation that supports your budget.

Part 4 – Agency Review Criteria

Please answer the following questions regarding your agency

- i. Describe your agency and its anti-hunger work. How long has the agency been in existence? How long has the agency been fighting hunger? Discuss your agency's financial stability.

- ii. Explain the demonstrated community need that is met by your agency.

- iii. Discuss what community support exists for your agency. For example, does your agency utilize volunteers from its community? Is your agency supported financially by its community?

iv. Does your agency collaborate with others in anti-hunger work? Please explain.

v. How does your agency fit into the anti-hunger effort in your community? Are there other agencies that do similar work in your area?

Part 5 – Supplemental Material

Please answer the following questions regarding the supplemental material you have enclosed with your proposal.

Have you enclosed?

- i. Budget documentation? **(Required)** Yes No

What type? (Examples: Copy of advertisement for proposed piece of equipment, bid from contractor, etc)

- ii Letters of support? **(Required)** Yes No

How many and from whom?

- iii. Any other materials? Yes No

What materials?

THE ALASKA FOOD COALITION



FISCAL YEAR 2007 MINI-GRANT APPLICATION GUIDELINES

Overview

The Alaska Food Coalition is funding mini-grants of up to \$2,000 to agencies involved in fighting hunger in Alaska. The funds are for capacity-building purposes only. The Alaska Food Coalition will only fund capital projects with a long-term impact on an agency. This could include purchasing a new piece of equipment or repairing damaged equipment. The Alaska Food Coalition is primarily interested in funding projects which will lead to more hungry people getting fed and/or improves the quality of food being distributed to hungry people. In the case of emergency repair work, the Alaska Food Coalition will also fund projects which are designed to prevent people from going hungry. Applications seeking to cover operating costs such as the payment of utilities will not be considered.

The Alaska Food Coalition is requiring that applying grantees supply 20% of the total project costs through local fundraising or in-kind donations. For example, agencies could request \$2,000 of a \$2,500 project from the AFC. In their application, they should make clear their plan to supply the remaining \$500. This \$500 could be in terms of cash raised from other sources or through an in-kind donation such as labor.

The Alaska Food Coalition is also requiring that agencies submit supplemental material with their application. This material should include budget support and documentation and at least one letter of support. See below for more information on the supplemental materials.

This fiscal year The Alaska Food Coalition is funding five mini-grants. Considering the number of applications made in fiscal year 2006 the chances of being funded in fiscal year 2007 are 1 in 4.

Application Procedures

To apply for a fiscal year 2007 mini-grant, agencies should first confirm their proposal fulfills the four essential criteria discussed below. If they are confident that the proposal satisfies these criteria, an agency should proceed with its application. Agencies should fill out and return the fiscal year 2007 application to the Alaska Food Coalition by September 30, 2006. This application is available in hard copy by mail, on the Alaska Food Coalition website, www.alaskafood.org, and via email from the Alaska Food Coalition Coordinator. Applications may be handwritten, but we would prefer applicants to request an electronic application so they can type in their responses. In addition to the completed application, agencies should submit supplemental material including letters of support and documentation supporting their proposed budget.

Completed applications can be returned to the Alaska Food Coalition Coordinator by mail, fax, email or hand.

Mailing address:

Alaska Food Coalition Coordinator
C/o Food Bank of Alaska
2121 Spar Avenue
Anchorage, AK 99501

Fax number:

(907) 277-7368

Email address:

afc@foodbankofalaska.org.

Please address all correspondence to the Alaska Food Coalition Coordinator.

Essential Criteria

There are four criteria which must be satisfied for an application to be considered for funding by the Alaska Food Coalition. Applications which do not meet these four criteria will not be reviewed further and the Alaska Food Coalition will decline to fund them. If you have any questions about whether a specific agency or project satisfies these three essential criteria, please contact the AFC Coordinator.

Essential criteria:

- i. Is the agency involved in anti-hunger work?
- ii. Is the funding requested for a capital project that will have long-term impact on the agency's ability to feed hungry people?
- iii. Will the agency provide 20% of the total project costs, either in the form of funding or an in-kind donation?
- iv. The agency was not awarded an Alaska Food Coalition mini-grant in fiscal year 2006 (July 2005 - June 2006).

Supplemental Materials

In order to more thoroughly and fairly review grants, the Alaska Food Coalition is requesting that all applicants submit at least two supplemental materials. One of these required materials is budget documentation. This could include copy of an advertisement or a manufacturer or contractor's price quote. The budget documentation should highlight a specific product and make clear how the agency intends to access that product (i.e. where the agency will purchase the product or who has been contracted to do the repair work). In addition estimated times of delivery or completion should be included.

The other required material is a letter of support. You are only required to submit one letter of support but you are welcome to submit as many letters as you feel appropriate. Letters of support should indicate support both for your program in general and for your proposed project in particular. The mini-grants will be reviewed by a team of reviewers across Alaska. Reviewers may not be familiar with your agency or its work. The letters of support are an opportunity to educate the reviewers about your program, its work and its reputation in the community. Letters of support may be written by local officials knowledgeable about your program, representatives from agencies with whom you collaborate or clients and volunteers of your program.

Helpful Hints

The Alaska Food Coalition is most interested in straightforward capital projects which will increase an agency's capacity to feed hungry Alaskans. Projects such as purchasing a new refrigerator which will allow a food pantry to distribute more fresh dairy items are the sorts of projects that will be most favorably reviewed.

In general, applicants are advised to focus their proposal on one significant item rather than several smaller items, unless these items are very closely related by a common theme. Applicants should make a case as to why their proposed project will help fight hunger in Alaska. Specifically, they should discuss how their proposal will help them offer more and/or better foods to people in hunger. If they are applying for funds for repair work, they should explain how their proposal will help them prevent additional people from going hungry.

Once again, applicants should keep in mind that the reviewers may not be familiar with their program. Therefore, both in the application and in the letters of support they should feel free to discuss their agency, its work, and its role in their community. Keep in mind that The Alaska Food Coalition will look most favorably on agencies which are financially stable, receive strong community support and meet a demonstrated need (related to anti-hunger work) in their community.

THE DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS IS SEPTEMBER 30, 2006

THE ALASKA FOOD COALITION



Mini-grant Review Form FY 2007

Name of Applicant: _____

Part 1 - Essential Criteria

The following four questions must be answered in the affirmative in order to continue with the review process. Applications that do not meet these four criteria are ineligible for further consideration and cannot receive funding from The Alaska Food Coalition.

a. Is the agency involved in anti-hunger work?

Yes No

b. Is the funding requested for a capital project that will have long-term impact on the agency's ability to feed hungry people?

Yes No

c. Will the agency provide 20% of the total project costs, either in the form of funding or an in-kind donation?

Yes No

d. The agency received an Alaska Food Coalition mini-grant in fiscal year 2006 (July 2005 - June 2006).

Yes No

Part 2 - Review Criteria

Please score the application in regard to the following questions. *Please be sure to score each question based on the total possible number of points. Some questions are to be scored on a scale of 1-20, some on a scale of 1-10 and some on a scale of 1-5. Please note the scoring instructions for each question.* In every question a score of 1 is the lowest possible score and the highest number indicates the highest possible score.

There is space after each question for you to make comments. These comments will provide useful information on future applications for agencies which do not get funded.

- a. To what extent will the proposed project allow the agency to distribute more or different foods, or in the case of repair work, maintain their current level of operation?

Please score this question on a scale of 1-20.

Rating (1-20): _____

- b. Is there a demonstrated need for the proposed project?

Please score this question on a scale of 1-10.

Rating (1-10): _____

c. Is the proposed project central to the agency's work of feeding hungry Alaskans?

Please score this question on a scale of 1-10.

Rating (1-10): _____

d. Does the agency provide a reasonable budget with documentation?

Please score this question on a scale of 1-10.

Rating (1-10): _____

QUESTIONS a – d TOTAL (/50): _____

- e. What is history of the agency? How long has it been in existence and how stable is it? How long has it been involved in fighting hunger and how stable is this aspect of its operation? *Please base your score on all of the above. For example, a church that is stable financially and has a long history, but only recently began anti-hunger work, might not score as highly as a similar church which has operated a successful food pantry for years.*

Please score this question on a scale of 1-10.

Rating (1-10): _____

- f. Is there demonstrated community need for the services provided by this agency?

Please score this question on a scale of 1-10.

Rating (1-10): _____

g. Is there community support for the agency?

Please score this question on a scale of 1-10.

Rating (1-10): _____

h. Does the agency collaborate with others in anti-hunger work?

Please score this question on a scale of 1-5.

Rating (1-5): _____

- i. Is the agency central to anti-hunger work in its community?

Please score this question on a scale of 1-5.

Rating (1-5): _____

QUESTIONS e - i TOTAL (/40): _____

QUESTIONS a - d TOTAL (/50): _____

GRAND TOTAL (/90): _____