

Clark County Food Bank



FEEDING THE FUTURE

Inspire and Grow a Network of Community Health



BUILDING THE VISION CENTER

Clark County Food Bank (CCFB) is undertaking a five million dollar Capacity Campaign to support a new best-practices food, training, service, and speciality warehousing center in the Walnut Grove area of Vancouver, adjacent to CCFB. The new facility will enable CCFB to expand its dignity-building programs and will serve as a resource and guide for all current pantry partners located throughout the county. The Vision Center will enable CCFB to advance its mission to alleviate hunger and its root causes, and to further its vision of inspiring and growing a network of community health in Clark County.

For over a year and a half, our community has experienced the immense impact of the pandemic which has gripped the world. As food scarcity has grown significantly during this time, Clark County Food Bank has been called upon to respond adequately. Through innovation and nimble operations, CCFB has been able to assist our partner agencies, as well as provide direct food distribution throughout the county.

Prior to the pandemic, CCFB was already planning to expand operations to meet growing community needs and had begun to set aside the financial resources for a new facility. The pandemic not only heightened awareness of the need for additional food bank resources, but also created a wave of unprecedented support for CCFB from a generous community committed to the alleviation of hunger.

Accordingly, CCFB is partnering with Colf Construction to construct a build-to-suit facility, the Clark County Food Bank Vision Center, on land adjacent to CCFB. The pantry and community space is planned at over 3,000 square feet, with food and other program space at just under 10,000 square feet. The new space will introduce a significant supply of more diverse food into the system and serve hundreds more clients each week. Through the focused stewardship of the CCFB Board of Directors and staff, one million dollars has been set aside to reduce the cost of the upcoming building lease for ten years.

While the building will be completed and CCFB has set aside a decade of lease payments, the CCFB Vision Center is seeking five million dollars in matching support to fund technology, amenities, utilities, lease and program costs to help CCFB best serve its partners and the community.



**BEST PRACTICES
PANTRY**



COMMUNITY SPACE



**CREATIVE FOOD SOURCING
& WAREHOUSING**



PARKING

BEST PRACTICES PANTRY



The need for a best-practices pantry has emerged as CCFB has witnessed changes in client needs, volunteer participation, and donor engagement. Our partner network will benefit from a pantry that tests new methods of distribution and programming, in a best-practices approach. The new CCFB pantry will focus on innovative client engagement and wrap-around services, such as healthcare partnerships, nutrition education classes, cooking demos, and client-run pantry operations. It will also offer Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) boxes from local farms, provide free lunches and healthy snacks for shoppers, make shopping more convenient with open hours in a grocery store environment, and feature attractive merchandising and signage that follows behavioral economic principles.

COMMUNITY SPACE



Alongside the pantry, the community space will feature a large cafe-like gathering space and kitchen where business and nonprofit meetings can take place. This is also where CCFB will host lunches with community members, gather its partner agencies, and offer other resources to clients, such as mobile dental clinics, personal finance tutorials, and leadership training. CCFB also plans to use this community space to teach and inspire young people through hands-on educational programs. The Vision Center will also be a training center for leadership development and community engagement, hosting gatherings and learning opportunities that empower the community to advance the mission and vision of CCFB.

CREATIVE FOOD SOURCING & WAREHOUSING



Clark County Food Bank has the opportunity to obtain significantly more and better food streams in the community that CCFB cannot currently access. This requires specialty warehousing that will be incorporated into the Vision Center. The new warehouse will be used for processing and distributing food that CCFB currently declines due to space and storage limitations. It will also enable CCFB to pursue new food sources and secure more targeted food options to better care for specific populations, such as seniors, houseless individuals, kids, and folks with specific dietary or cultural needs. Additional warehouse space will play a huge role in increasing CCFB's food distribution capacity. The Vision Center will be able to host larger groups of volunteers in the space to quickly sort, pack, and get food out the door to people in the community. When there is a volunteer food sort in CCFB's existing warehouse, normal operations have to cease in order to accommodate the number of people required to do sorting. With the additional facility, CCFB won't have to shut down its current warehouse operations every time a large food donation arrives to be sorted.

PARKING



The Vision Center will provide an additional 50 parking spaces that will replace CCFB's nearby overflow parking lot, which will soon be lost due to planned development of that site. The safety for staff and volunteers is of utmost importance to CCFB, and the Vision Center's additional parking will more safely accommodate staff and volunteers on a daily basis. The Vision Center parking lot will be on the same side of the street as CCFB, which allows staff and volunteers to use the sidewalk, rather than cross 47th Ave.—a high traffic road—to get to the food bank.

ADVANCING THE MISSION AND EXPANDING THE VISION THROUGH THE CAPACITY CAMPAIGN

The Clark County Food Bank Vision Center has long been anticipated and planned. Accordingly, CCFB has advanced one million dollars from its reserve to initiate construction of the build-to-suit facility by Colf Construction, which will also serve to pay down the ten-year lease. As the pandemic has impacted our community, the need for increased capacity has become even clearer, and CCFB has ramped up its efforts to propel the building project forward. While the pandemic expedited the timeframe for the Clark County Food Bank Vision Center, CCFB has long recognized it will be called upon to do more in support of partner agencies, as they continue to mature. CCFB also recognizes that it must increase direct distribution services to eradicate food insecurity in our community. The CCFB Vision Center will address these needs, and the matching Capacity Campaign of five million dollars will provide the resources to accomplish these goals.