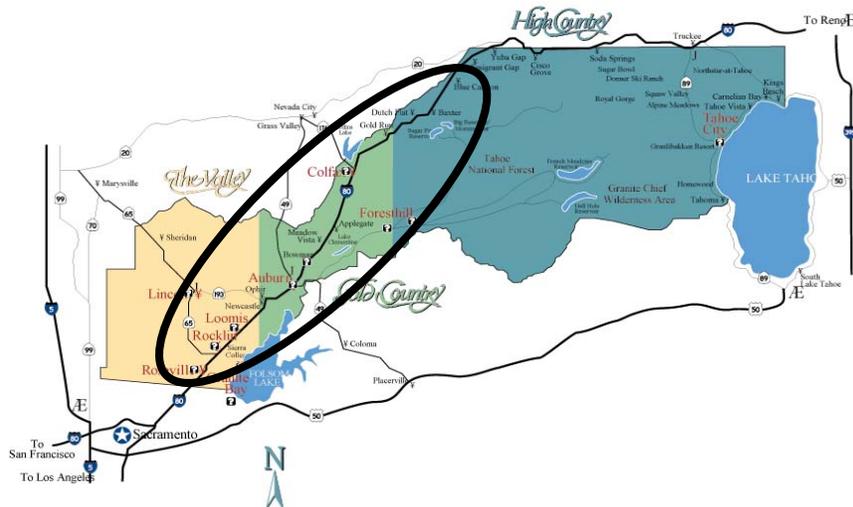




Auburn Interfaith Food Closet

“Sharing the Blessings”

2019/2020 Annual Report



Message from Sandy Bassett, President AIFC

This Annual Report will reflect all of 2019 and activities the first half of 2020. The fiscal and statistical data will reflect calendar year 2019 as that is our budget year. 2019 was a year of stability in our core client services area, expansion with the addition of a new client program and hectic preparation for our building project. Early in 2020, our world was changed with the outbreak of COVID-19. It is still impacting families in our area. Relief programs have helped families weather unemployment and stay at home orders. We are well positioned to continue our long-term plans while being ready to rapidly respond to the needs of families in our community when they come to us. Our experience is over 75% of the families who come to us in the year do so only when they are unable to meet their monthly budget. As COVID impacted our region, we experienced a significant drop in the number of clients in the second quarter of 2020, including a large decrease in our homeless families. We believe this unexpected effect is a direct correlation to government programs: (1) emergency homeless shelters were opened, including three daily meals and (2) stimulus checks as well as unemployment assistance supported family budgets. We expect to see an increase in clients once the federal programs expire.

Key Accomplishments

- Core Client Services
 - Provided nutritionally-balanced food to 7,883 families, encompassing 21,336 individuals, to allow creation of 187,119 meals. We recently determined that since AIFC inception in 1998, over 4.2 Million meals worth of food have been distributed to our community.
 - Recorded 26,228 volunteer hours of service
 - Exceeded operations fund-raising goals by \$12,285 while controlling expenses to \$79,728 below budget. This favorability of \$92,000 assures AIFC is well positioned for 2020.
- Delivery to Homebound Seniors
 - Received a grant to provide home delivery service to homebound senior residents with very low income, living on their own and do not have reliable transportation to come during our normal hours of operation. The program began in January 2020.
 - Delivered groceries to 38 senior households (53 individuals). Only 23 of these households (20 individuals) met the low income criteria set by the grant; however, it was determined they met all the criteria except their income was too high so we absorbed the additional cost. We are taking care to limit delivery to homebound seniors who are unable to come to AIFC on their own or have someone who can come for them. The goal is to reach 30 qualifying clients by the end of 2020.
- Building Project
 - Exceeded our initial Capital Campaign fund raising goal. Four of our faith communities – Pioneer Methodist, Bethlehem Lutheran, Faith Lutheran, and Auburn Presbyterian - held special programs with the proceeds dedicated to the building fund. The Elks Club created and sold a cookbook for the project. Thunder Valley dedicated the profits of a golf tournament.
 - Completed all architectural plans and the project was approved by Placer County. The project was put out for bid and awarded to Haldeman Commercial on June 2, 2020.
 - Received approval for a mortgage of \$830,000 from the Rural Development division of the USDA at 2.25% for 40 years. Escrow closed on July 27, 2020.

Struggling Families Count on the AIFC in 2019



7,883 Families



21,336 Individuals



187,119 Meals

Until COVID19 hit in early 2020, Auburn and Placer County experienced record-setting unemployment rates at less than 3%. Yet there were a number of families – about 650 per month – who needed AIFC support to put food on their table and help them meet monthly budgets. With the advent of COVID19 in 2020 and the corresponding governmental assistance, this number dropped from a high of 735 in January to a low of 443 and 417 in May and June.. We expect the numbers to increase once the governmental assistance diminishes

Most of the families coming to AIFC are not homeless. Many of these have people working multiple jobs yet live paycheck to paycheck, with the risk that one unanticipated expense or an illness without benefits causes a loss of income.

There are just under 10% of our clients who are homeless, with many of these having income that is insufficient to pay for housing. Our clients include 14% veterans, 14.4% seniors and 25% are under 18.

AIFC: 2019 Community Support

Congregations: 17 faith-based communities

- 12 fully participating congregations
- 3 associate congregations
- 2 affiliate congregations

Staff: 100% volunteer organization – no paid staff

- >276 volunteers in 2019

2019 Income	Amount	%	2019 Expense	Amount	%
\$ Operations donations	\$ 207,302	38.9%	Client services	\$420,064	95.5%
Food donations	\$ 326,193	61.1%	Administrative	\$ 12,076	2.7%
TOTAL	\$ 533,495		Fund raising expense	\$ 8,183	1.8%
			TOTAL	\$ 440,361	

AIFC: Nonprofit established in 1998

Mission: *Provide nutritious food to those in need, preserving their dignity and encouraging self-reliance*

Area: Residents living within Placer County zip codes from Loomis to Emigrant Gap, Lake of the Pines to Foresthill

Support: 3 days of food items for each member of the household, no more than once per month

Monthly service data	2011	2016	2017	2018	2019
Households	1,021	666	696	692	657
Individuals	3,210	1,943	1,975	1,929	1,778
% homeless	6.4%	6.0%	7.6%	7.4%	9.8%
Meals	28,893	17,218	17,440	17,046	15,593
Unemployment Rate	10.7%	4.4%	3.9%	2.9%	2.8%

Homebound Senior Delivery Program

One of the biggest advantages of the Project Go grant for our Homebound Senior Delivery Program was that it covers the rental of a refrigerated van one week a month. The refrigerated van enables us to deliver refrigerated goods (milk, cheese, yogurt) to our homebound seniors along with the non-perishable goods.

Volunteer teams deliver on the third week of the month. Routes are sent to Colfax, Foresthill, Auburn, and Newcastle. In June we delivered to 35 households where 50 individuals live. We are actively recruiting low income homebound seniors who could benefit from this program. They must be unable to visit the Food Closet themselves and not have someone who could pick up food for them.

Our Nutrition Committee developed surveys to help determine how advantageous this program is to our enrolled seniors.



Other Events and Accomplishments

- Our 3-year Capital Campaign was highly successful, raising \$184,622 through 228 individual donations in 2019 bringing the total to \$478,593 by June 2020. The success of this campaign is what allowed us to move ahead with the building project. USDA indicated the community response to this project was at one of the highest levels they have seen in any of their building projects.
- The 2019 Big Day of Giving was the highest ever – a record giving of \$22,161! The 2020 Big Dog campaign was even bigger at \$44,265 from 159 donations. This is more than the AIFC received in the past two years combined!
- Recognized September as Hunger Action Month and collected 603 bags with 6,775 food items in a community-wide food drive which had 47 volunteer teams from the community participating in the drive.
- Held our 2nd Annual Turkey Drive where 506 families signed up for either a turkey or a 3 lb. ham. Hams were purchased for small families. Enough turkeys were donated so all who signed up received one.
- Held our 9th Annual Walk to Stock the Closet where more than 300 attended and donated \$10,254!
- Shifted major purchasing of food to Placer Food Bank which resulted in significant savings. Implemented a drive-through delivery system as a result of COVID19 designed to protect staff and clients. Partnered with IMAGINE and the ARC of Placer County to provide opportunities for challenged adults to assist us.
- Redesigned our website to make it more user friendly. Reviewed and updated our Bylaws and Policy Manual and participated in six local outreach events

The New Food Closet

- The new building will be located at 1788 Auburn Ravine Rd., Auburn.
- It will be 4,719 sq. ft. and be similar to our current layout.
- It is being built by Haldeman Commercial.
- It is expected to be completed by February 2021.
- Total cost of the project is \$1.8 million with \$830,000 funded by a mortgage with the USDA.
- Construction began at the end of July 2020.



FUTURE PROJECTS

The AIFC top priority is to complete the new building so we can seamlessly continue to serve our client base. We have identified additional investments that will be needed which are not currently funded.

- Replace the walk-in refrigerator. It is a 1950's era unit and the refrigeration maintenance company says it may not make it to the new building. Estimate \$10,000
- Complete the commercial kitchen so that it can be used for demonstrations and training. We have one donation of \$5,000. The completion will include a range, oven, refrigerator, stainless shelving/tables and kitchen utensils. Estimate \$20,000
- Install a generator for refrigeration units to cover blackouts. Estimate \$40,000
- Install a solar system to reduce utility costs. Estimate \$40,000
- Inventory conveyor system Estimate \$18,000

CONTACT US

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We could not have accomplished this without the help of our supporting faith-based communities and the greater Auburn area community. We are a dedicated team and proud of what we have been able to accomplish.

We do have a need for individuals with leadership skills who could lead a committee or even a shift at the Food Closet. If you are interested in finding out more about this opportunity, you may reach me at 530-878-9324 or at slbassett@att.net. Thank you for partnering with us.

