Donors are protected from liability because Thurston Food Rescue partners:

- Practice safe food handling - using proper equipment and procedures to rescue food.
- Act with integrity - IRS Code 170(e)(3), no bartering, trading, or selling of donated items.
- Recognize the Good Samaritan Food Donation Act - protects donors from liability.

Benefits for donors who participate may include:

- Reducing disposal costs.
- Reducing storage costs.
- Potential tax credits.
- Reducing food sent to the landfill.
- Helping those in need.
- Building employee morale.

Participating food banks and community meal programs

**Thurston County Food Bank**  
(360) 352-8597 (Ext. 102)  
Director@ThurstonCountyFoodBank.org

**Senior Services for South Sound**  
(360) 586-6181 (Ext. 112)  
Nutrition@SouthSoundSeniors.org

**The Community Kitchen: Salvation Army & Catholic Community Services**  
(360) 352-8596 (Ext. 112)  
TheCommunityKitchen@ccswww.org

**ROOF Community Services**  
(360) 273-6375  
info@ROOFCommunityServices.org

**Faith Harvest Helpers**  
Youth With a Mission  
(360) 339-4726  
OfficeManager@FaithHarvestHelpers.org

**Hidden Creek Community Church**  
(360) 357-3739  
TheSource@HiddenCreek.org

**Turning Point Church**  
(360) 489-0378  
LordsPantry@TurningPointOlympia.org

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What is Thurston Food Rescue?

Thurston Food Rescue is a program organized by several food banks and community meal programs to safely collect surplus edible food for those in need by preventing good food from going to the landfill.

How does it work?
Connect with a local food bank or community meal program to identify foods to donate and to set a collection schedule. Start small and expand the types and quantities of food you rescue over time. See the list of non-profits on reverse side.

Can organizations be held liable?
The Washington State Good Samaritan Act (RCW 69.80.031) allows for the following:
- Protection from civil or criminal liability when donating food in good faith to a non-profit organization distributing to needy individuals.
- Requires establishment of “gross negligence” or intentional misconduct before a donor is considered liable for harm caused by a donation.

What types of organizations can donate food?
- Restaurants
- Schools
- Caterers
- Cafes
- Hospitals
- Grocery stores
- Food processors

Many organizations and catered events prepare food that does not always end up getting served. Almost any food item can be rescued. This includes pizza, buffet foods, unopened milk cartons, and platters of sandwiches.

Why rescue food?
- **Saves money** - the most expensive way to manage surplus edible food is to throw it in the garbage. Rescuing food may reduce your organization’s disposal costs.
- **Helps families in need** - 1 in 6 families in Thurston County do not have a secure, consistent source of food.
- **Conserves resources** - food waste is the single largest item by weight in Thurston County’s garbage.

*Thurston Food Rescue started as a pilot project with assistance from Thurston County Public Works, with project funding provided by a Washington State Department of Ecology Coordinated Prevention Grant.*