



A cooler at St. Vincent de Paul in Pasco, WA, awaits food donations for the upcoming holiday season.



MANY HANDS FEED MANY PEOPLE

by Mary Taylor | photos by Naomia May

Why a food drive in October for the last 20-years? For the McCurley Integrity Auto stores in South East Washington, the Octoberfest Food Drive is one of the many ways the McCurley employee's make a much-needed impact in our community, both for those that serve and those who are served. McCurley has always been the driving force behind bringing pillars of the community, such as Mustang Signs and Yoke's Fresh Market, together to successfully campaign a month-long food drive that helps to fill the pantry shelves of local independent nonprofits that provide a service to those struggling with food insecurities.

McCurley picked each of the local nonprofit's because they are wholly owned and volunteer based which cuts down on overhead and affords them the ability to stretch every financial donation that they receive to make the biggest impact feeding, clothing, sheltering and caring for the families and individuals within our communities who need it most. The four selected non-profits who will receive donations from the annual food-drive this year are The Salvation Army, the Union Gospel Mission, St. Vincent de Paul, and Tri-City Food Bank. After spending time speaking with representatives of each location, and touring their facilities, TLM finds it easy to understand why these nonprofits were chosen: their greatest motivation is to serve those in need.

Even though each non-profit is independently operated, they're interconnected by cause. For example, when one organization, such as the Tri-City Food Bank, has an over-abundance of food, they will reach out across the river to organizations such as The Salvation Army or the Union Gospel Mission to share their abundance.

This makes dividing the final accumulation of the food drive efforts from Octoberfest between the four selected nonprofits a no-brainer. While many hands make light work, the more hands that McCurley can get involved to help feed others, the more people will be fed, and it's not just the homeless who are receiving this help. With the COVID pandemic, food insecurity has affected us all: from job loss, to inflation, to being forced to decide between paying rent or feeding our families, food insecurities are non-discriminatory and rampant in our community.

That's why nonprofit organizations such as these--which provide non-discriminatory services and offer a little buffer whether it's through supplemental groceries, emergency shelter, or rental assistance--are so important and need our contributions.

During the month of October, please consider teaming up with McCurley and Yoke's Fresh Market during the month-long food drive to help make an immediate and positive impact on our community! Your support can be as easy as adding a \$5 to \$10 nonperishable food bag to your shopping cart every time you shop at a Yoke's Fresh Market. You can also donate non-perishables to any one of the McCurley showrooms during October. Every pound of food along with every dollar donated is appreciated and will be thoughtfully placed where it will do the most good, so this October, let's team up and help fill our local food pantries!

For more information about the organizations working together to make this food drive a success, continue reading on the next page.

OCTOBERFEST

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Yoke's Fresh Market was established in 1946 as a family run grocery store in Deer Park, Washington. As an independent, employee-owned, regional grocery store chain, they provide genuine guest service in a welcoming environment. Large enough to offer a broad variety of quality products and services at competitive prices, yet small enough to care about the specific needs of their guests and communities, Yoke's employs associates to quickly meet those needs.

Yoke's gives back to local schools through the E-Scrip program as well as directly through donations for many of their events, such as the Oktoberfest food drive, in which Yoke's has partnered with McCurley for more than a decade. During the month of October Yoke's specifically reaches out to the partnering food banks to find out what types of food will best serve them and their clients. They then order that food and stock it for a final presentation in early November and partner with Coca-Cola to deliver the collected food to the local food banks. Yoke's also assembles and sells \$5 and \$10 bags of non-perishable groceries that their guests can buy and donate, so when you shop in October, shop Yoke's!

Mustang Signs started in 2012 with the goal of helping to make it as easy as humanly possible for every business to look awesome. They assist the Oktoberfest Food Drive by providing signage at all of the local dealerships and Yoke's stores to help promote the event. Their favorite part about the Oktoberfest Food Drive is helping bring businesses together to support the community.

TRI-CITY FOOD BANK

The Tri-City Food Bank was established in 1975 as a homegrown nonprofit organization with a duty to help feed individuals and families within the community who are hungry and struggling with food insecurity. Their mission, "We are neighbors serving your neighbors in need," encourages the ideal of community stepping up and coming together as a team to serve its population until the need for supplemental emergency food no longer exists.



VALJEANNE (VJ) MEADOWS | TCFB

Annually, the Tri-City Food Bank serves more than 40,000 families in Benton City, Kennewick, Richland and West Richland with supplemental or emergency food, and 40% of individuals served are children. On any given week, the TCFB (Tri-City Food Bank) hands out around twenty tons of food. Currently the TCFB is limited to only distributing food in Benton County and does not serve the residents of Franklin County or the city of Pasco. Individuals who need emergency supplemental food may visit the branch that they reside in as often as every other week, and at each visit the TCFB provides up to a week's supply of groceries such as meat, eggs, margarine or butter, canned goods, rice, beans, flour, pasta products, seasonal fresh fruits and vegetables, as well as other miscellaneous donated foods and supplies.

The TCFB is volunteer-based, and prior to COVID had around 200 volunteers available to donate time by collecting and distributing food throughout the local branches every day of the year. Because a large portion of their volunteers are senior citizens, or individuals otherwise at-risk for COVID, the TCFB was faced with an enormous obstacle: only half of their normal complement of volunteers, and a higher volume of families needing services! Typically, the TCFB serves around 21% new or sporadic clients on any given day in addition to their routine clients. With the challenges that families are facing because of COVID, like paying rent despite job loss, or just eating, food insecurities have increased and more people are needing emergency supplemental food than ever before.

Using the COVID pandemic as a learning experience and to help make their services more efficient, the TCFB is currently upgrading all their branches with community safety in mind by installing new contactless ways for food distribution at their Kennewick, Richland, and Benton City locations. When or if the need for supplemental food arises, the TCFB is ready and available to assist any member of our local community without judgement.

As an independent, nonprofit organization, TCFB gets a majority of its food and financial donations from local individuals, caring businesses, and community organizations through a variety of campaigns such as canned food drives and Oktoberfest. These donations go directly to the mission at hand.



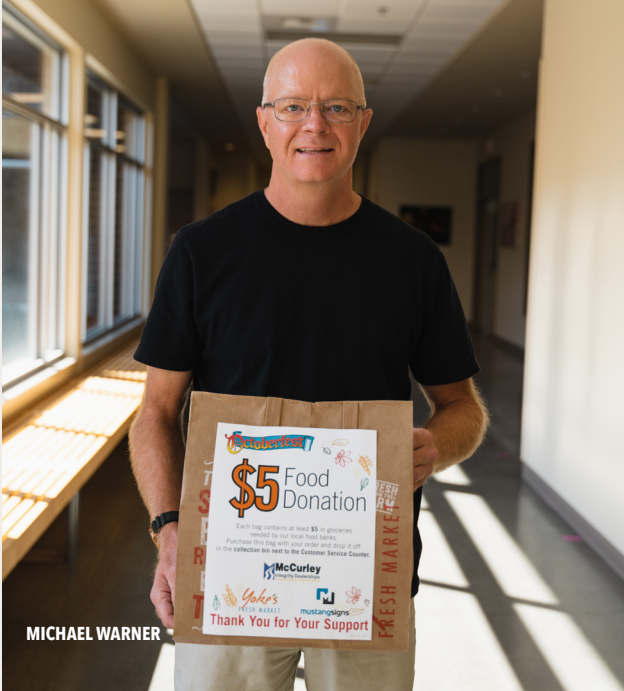
THE SALVATION ARMY

Established in 1923, The Salvation Army in Pasco provides social services to families in need. Among the programs offered: meal program/food pantry, clothing bank, and emergency financial assistance. Holiday programs include adopt-a-family, holiday meals, food boxes, and toy & coat drive. Last year, The Salvation Army in Pasco served more than 20,000 individuals in the community!

Their mission: "The Salvation Army of the greater Tri-Cities aims to actively sustain growth by aiding and interacting with our diverse community, meeting each individual at their level of need to the best of our ability, and promoting spiritual growth transformation without judgement or discrimination."

The Salvation Army serves the community by offering food, clothing, emergency assistance, and spiritual guidance when asked. An immediate need that The Salvation Army is currently seeking help with includes funding for emergency assistance with rent and utilities. "We partner with many organizations for food, but not enough for funding to help with other assistance. Food drives help to fill the boxes for holiday dinners for families of the Tri-Cities that are in need."

If someone wants to help, there are volunteer positions available which currently need assistance. The Salvation Army also could use financial donations to help those that are in danger of getting evicted once the current non-eviction moratorium is lifted.



TRI-CITY UNION GOSPEL MISSION

The Tri-City Union Gospel Mission was established in 1954 and incorporated in 1958. Members of the mission saw the need for a Christ-centered organization to step up and assist the homeless, hopeless, and hurting people in our community. A few examples of how the Tri-City Union Gospel Mission serves the community include: providing the only 24-hour emergency shelter that serves the Columbia Basin region, providing food, shelter, showers, clothing and other essential items to clients at their facilities, offering case management and addiction recovery programs for people seeking help, and offering additional assistance to individuals and families who are not homeless but are still in need. Additional services include providing prepared meals for lunch and dinner each day that are available to eat, either in their dining room or to-go during Covid restrictions. The TCUGM also provides a monthly hygiene give-away (drive-through style for safety) that has provided over 1,000 bundles of shampoo, conditioner, soap, hand sanitizer, toothbrushes, toothpaste, deodorant, diapers, toilet paper, and feminine products to hurting families.

All of these services are provided free of charge and are 100% community funded by individuals, churches, businesses and other groups. The TCUGM does not receive any government funding or assistance even though they operate a men's shelter and a women and children's shelter twenty-four hours a day, 365 days a year. Their mission is to transform those who may be hurting physically, emotionally, and spiritually by sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ with love, compassion and urgency through rescue, recover, and restoration programs.



SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

The Society of St.Vincent De Paul Conference, Pasco, is affiliated with St. Vincent De Paul Council of the Diocese of Spokane. The organization started in 1959 by eight men. When they would hear someone needed food, they would go buy what was needed and deliver it. Eventually, they found themselves delivering food to about twelve families per week. In addition to helping provide food, they also fixed appliances. Eventually, in 1960, St. Vincent's was incorporated. Their first food bank started on Lewis and 1st street, and later, in 2013, moved to 6th Avenue in Pasco.

Currently, St. Vincent's has at least forty wonderful volunteers who fill boxes, work in the office, or work in the clothing section. Their main mission is in helping others by giving those in need food and clothing, and helping families with children find temporary shelter. St. Vincent's also can help sometimes with electricity late payments and gas, and they fulfill as many other requests for help as they can as long as they have the ability and funds to provide assistance.

St. Vincent's favorite part of the Octoberfest Food Drive is the actual food that gets donated which allows their organization to help others.

Currently, St. Vincent's can really use rice, pinto beans, spaghetti sauce, noodles, black beans and canned soups; however, they are grateful for whatever they receive. Financial donations are also always helpful and go to families seeking emergency shelter. Currently, specific needs are for volunteers during lunch time between 12:00 and 1:00 p.m. They can also always use men's clothing, shoes, and new (unused) underwear and socks as well as hygiene products for kits. Also, they take kitchen items and bedding. St. Vincent's also gives sleeping bags, socks, winter hats, and gloves to our area's homeless population.

LOCAL RESOURCES

TCFB

Locations, Contact Information & Operating Hours
tri-citiesfoodbanks.org
Central Office
 420 W. Deschutes Ave.
 Kennewick, WA 99336
 509-582-0411
 Tricitiesfoodbank@gmail.com
Benton City
 712 N. 10th St.
 Wed. 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
 Thurs. 12:00 –2:00 p.m. and 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.
Kennewick
 424 W. Deschutes Ave.
 Mon-Thurs. 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.
Richland
 321 Wellsian Way
 Tues. and Thurs. 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.
 Sat. 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

CURRENT NEEDS | Volunteers in a number of capacities. All volunteers must be fifteen years old or older, and if under the age of eighteen, must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.

THE SALVATION ARMY

Location, Contact Information & Operating Hours
tricitities.salvationarmy.org
 509-547-2138
Pasco
 310 N 4th Ave.
 Food Distribution Center
 Tues. & Thurs. 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. & 1 p.m to 3:30 p.m.

CURRENT NEEDS | Volunteers in a number of capacities as well as financial donations.

TCUGM

Location, Contact Information & Operating Hours
TCUGM.ORG
 509-547-2112
Pasco
 Men's Shelter 221 S 4th Ave.
 Women & Children's Shelter 110 N. 2nd. Ave.
 Check-In Times (for both shelters).
 Everyday from 1 p.m to 3 p.m

CURRENT NEEDS | Food donations include: canned/boxed goods, spices, bottled water. Other donations needed are: common household supplies and hygiene items, food-grade latex gloves, aluminum foil, 55-gallon garbage bags, small bottles/travel bottles of ibuprofen, new men's underwear (all sizes). Other Ways to Help include: financial donations, Volunteering & Prayer

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

Location, Contact Information & Operating Hours
svdpasco.org
Pasco
 215 S. 6th Ave.
 (509) 544-9315
 secretary@svdppasco.org

CURRENT NEEDS | Volunteers in a number of capacities as well as financial donations.