

### **2019 Thanksgiving Blessing**

Thanksgiving Blessing 2019 is **Monday, November 25, 3 - 8 p.m.**,\* at these locations throughout the Anchorage community:

**Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints  
(Replacing Crosspoint Location)**  
13111 Brayton Drive

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**Spenard Recreation Center**  
2020 West 48th

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**Central Lutheran Church**  
Cordova and 15th

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**St. Patrick's Parish**  
2111 Muldoon Road

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**Joy Lutheran Church - Eagle River**  
10111 E. Eagle River Loop Road 99505

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**Mt. View Community Center**  
315 N. Price, Mt. View

**\*NOTE: Special hours 12 p.m.-8 p.m.**

**In 2018 the Thanksgiving Blessing Project served over 7000 families at six sites around Anchorage.**

The biggest challenge of Thanksgiving Blessing is acquiring enough turkeys and holiday side dishes for everyone in need. You can help:

#### ***Give***

Each turkey costs approximately \$15. A full meal for a family is about \$40. Consider sponsoring a fund drive to raise dollars toward the purchase of Thanksgiving food. You can give online at [www.foodbankofalaska.org](http://www.foodbankofalaska.org) (click Give Now) or mail a gift to Food Bank of Alaska, 2121 Spar Ave., Anchorage, AK 99501. With either method, please note *Thanksgiving Blessing* and tell us if you'd like your gift to support one site in particular.

#### ***Organize a Food Drive***

Host a food drive for the "fixings." Get your church, office, neighbors and friends involved by collecting food for families in need. Try focusing on one item from the menu, set a goal, and collect as much as you can. We are collecting the following items:

- Aluminum Roasting Pans
- Canned Corn
- Canned Green Beans
- Cranberry Sauce
- Dinner Rolls (by the dozen)
- Gravy Mix
- Pounds of Margarine
- Stuffing Mix

#### ***Opportunities to Volunteer***

To volunteer at any of the sponsoring locations please sign-up by visiting [www.foodbankofalaska.org/ways-to-give/volunteer](http://www.foodbankofalaska.org/ways-to-give/volunteer)

**Every gift means food for someone who would have gone without. Visit Food Bank of Alaska ([www.foodbankofalaska.org](http://www.foodbankofalaska.org)) for more ways to help.**



# **Thanksgiving Blessing**

**November 25, 2019**



# Thanksgiving Blessing

Thanksgiving Blessing puts faith into action and brings together people of good will for a common goal: ***to provide a Thanksgiving meal for families who might otherwise go without.***

Thanksgiving Blessing began in Anchorage in 2004 when the faith community came together to talk about how Thanksgiving meals and food baskets were distributed in the city. They discovered that distribution was scattered and limited. During the holidays Food Bank of Alaska received hundreds of calls from people who were chasing food baskets around town. Each church had different requirements and different hours. Sometimes churches ran out of food.

The planners agreed that the ideal way to make best use of the food for the most people in need was to establish a date and time for our neighbors to get groceries for a holiday meal at accessible locations organized by residents' zip codes.

In that first year, 2004, the project provided more than 1,700 families with a turkey dinner and all the fixings. Altogether 8,384 Anchorage families received a Thanksgiving dinner last year.

Congregations and volunteer groups gather food – often rising to the challenge of collecting 500 cans of vegetables or 1,000 packages of stuffing – to help one of the six distribution sites. Cash donations are also very much needed to fill in gaps in what's collected.

***Food Bank of Alaska secures a turkey for every family in need and depends on financial donations to do this.***

Thanksgiving Blessing happens every year because of the churches, temples, social service agencies, and volunteers who bring together this ambitious endeavor on behalf of our neighbors.

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***In 2018, Thanksgiving Blessing provided meals for more than 7,000 Anchorage families***

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Visit Food Bank of Alaska online to make a financial donation at our secure website:  
[www.foodbankofalaska.org](http://www.foodbankofalaska.org)

## Hunger in Our Community

- Almost 37,000 Anchorage residents do not have enough food.
- 1 in 6 Anchorage children cannot depend on having enough to eat every day.
- Statewide, 103,000 Alaskans, or 1 in 7, are sometimes without the food they need.
- 56% of our hungry neighbors also have unpaid medical bills.
- 60% of households seeking food help have at least one household member employed within the last year.

**For more information:  
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