



FERNDALE COMMUNITY SERVICE COOPERATIVE

2017 Annual Report

Ferndale Chamber of Commerce Non-Profit of the Year

P.O. Box 2205 Ferndale, WA 98248

360-380-2200

In 2017, 295 volunteers dedicated 6,611 hours to help their neighbors bridge the gaps in social, health and emergency services with Ferndale Community Service Cooperative's grass roots programs



Family Community Funds: Family Fund coordinators work in tandem with the Ferndale School District to help students be ready to learn when they enter the classroom. In 2017, they sorted and distributed school supplies to qualified middle and high school students, and provided over two hundred pack packs to low income students. They also supplied additional goods and services, like alarm clocks for latch key kids, to ensure that Ferndale youngsters have a successful educational experience.



Family Meals Project: The FMP offers information and hands on experience in planning, preparing, and sharing budget friendly home cooked meals. Their website @www.familymealsproject.com and Facebook page Family Meals Project are sources of food facts, recipes, and tips on nutrition. In 2017 the FMP worked with the Miracle Food Network to provide opportunities for shared cooking and meals at the Jesus Christ Chief Cornerstone Ministries Homeless Shelter of the Lummi Nation, and also offered community cook-ins and conversations at United Church of Ferndale.



Friendship Community Garden: The Friendship Garden provides 25 garden plots, 10 hoop house beds, and a communal garden space for gardening. With the advice of a master gardener, community members can grow and enjoy the benefits of organic, budget-wise produce. In 2017, gardeners included a Girl Scout Troop. The Giving Garden donated 1260 pounds of vegetables to the Ferndale Food Bank, and the Food Bank Garden also harvested 1733 pounds of produce for the community. The Giving Garden & Food Bank Garden plan to merge in 2018.



Holiday Giving Store: Thanks to the generosity of local businesses, industries, organizations, and individuals, the Holiday Giving Store was able to provide Xmas gifts for 454 low income children in the greater Ferndale community. Volunteers sorted and displayed the gifts at Ferndale's Christ the King Church so that parents could choose just the right toys, pajamas, warm clothes, and books and take them home to put under the tree. Youngsters from birth to age 18 are eligible for the program if their family qualifies for the federal school lunch program.



Other Bank: Did you know that SNAP (Food Stamp) benefits do not cover hygiene or cleaning supplies? Thanks to donations of products and financial support from the Ferndale community, the Other Bank was able to provide 134 families with 3,435 individual monthly allotments of items like laundry soap, dish soap, toilet tissue, toothpaste, shampoo, feminine hygiene supplies, razors, and diapers in 2017. Families residing within the Ferndale School District qualify if they are eligible for the federal free and reduced lunch program. They distribute supplies at the Resource Center, 5694 Second Ave., from 10 until noon each Tuesday during the school year.



Resource Center: The Resource Center provided 1726 individual services in 2017. Some clients seek information and referrals for health, housing, social, and human service needs. Others browse through the clothing bank, use the computer to search for employment or to check their email, and the telephone for long distance calls. Limited copying and faxing is free. Shower vouchers and bus passes are available. Resume assistance is available on request. The Center is open from 9:30 until 12:30 Tues. thru Friday at 5694 Second Ave. Watch for increased hours in 2018.



Volunteer Mobilization Center: The Volunteer Mobilization Center works with the Whatcom County Sheriff's Office to coordinate spontaneous volunteers throughout the County during and after disasters. They sponsor summits, outreach events, training opportunities and community meetings to prepare the public for disaster response. In 2017, the VMC received a \$9,500 safety grant from the Puget Sound Energy Foundation to help them in their mission. They participated in the BLI Airport Disaster Exercise, the Multi County Volunteer Summit, and disaster preparedness forums at WW and WTA.