

LANDER CARE AND SHARE FOOD BANK

The Food Bank opened in 1986 after closure of the U.S. Steel iron ore mine near Atlantic City. Over the last 30+ years, we have grown from a loose start-up in a ramshackle house to a very stable organization with deep community roots now in our current location. We are a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization and are partners with Wyoming Food Bank of the Rockies in Casper. Each month we purchase a large truckload of food and receive two pallets of commodity items from The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) from them. In compliance with their policy and our mercy-based philosophy, we can't ask our clients to work in return for food, or to attend any services, educational programs, or establish financial need. Clients (numbering 350-390 per week) can pick up one box of food per month worth approximately \$100.00, and they can select at any time from the table in the front lobby offering fresh garden produce or bread products. The Food Bank also purchases some food and receives food donations from Safeway, Mr. D's, Hines Grocery Store, and the Shoshoni mushroom farm. Other food donations come from businesses, churches, community organizations, food drives, and numerous individuals who generously donate food and money. In addition to food, we make available to clients various free books, coats and hats, and information about other sources of help (such as First Stop Help Center) that fall outside the scope of our primary mission.

As for the structure of the Lander Care and Share Food Bank, we have one part-time contracted Executive Director who is paid a monthly salary. There are now about 50 volunteer workers who provide nearly 125 hours of service per week doing the day-to-day tasks necessary to make things work. They are always busy filling food boxes, stocking shelves, hauling food from Safeway and mushrooms from Shoshoni and unloading the truck from Food Bank of the Rockies each month. The Board of Directors consists of up to 11 members who meet each month and whose responsibility it is to set the policy and direction of the Food Bank. They are responsible for overseeing the everyday operations of the Food Bank and its Director, and do so without compensation. Terms on the Board of Directors are for 2 years, but a Board member may serve up to 3 consecutive terms (6 years) if they wish. Officers consist of a Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary, and Treasurer. The Board of Directors basically has oversight of all functions of the Food Bank and its personnel, including coordination of all business fundraising, and financial support; supervision of the Executive Director and all volunteers; and other strategy planning and implementation. The Board also seeks to act in

furtherance of the mission of “providing emergency food assistance to those in need, regardless of income.” Our motto is “Neighbors Helping Neighbors. More Food, Less Hunger.”

There are numerous activities for the Lander Care and Share Food Bank each year, which are either fundraisers or sponsored by us. The Empty Bowls “Soup ‘n More” fundraiser in January is an annual success, which last year raised almost \$5,000.00. On the Fourth of July, we help with the Challenge for Charities Run, as a food prep location. The Challenge for Charities fundraiser in August provided over \$23,000.00 to the Food Bank. In September, the Board hosts a picnic in the City Park in appreciation for the volunteers and their service throughout the year. Over the past 12 years, around October 20, Food Bank Board members and volunteers help at the Wyoming Community Bank with the Lions Club Halloween Fundraiser, with games for lots of kids. Before Christmas, we hold a “North Pole Workshop,” which is a night of Christmas shopping for kids to shop for their families at the Food Bank, complete with donated gifts and gift wrapping. We also have an annual Plant/Yard Sale at our Food Bank. As you can see, we are a “working Board”.

Please check our website at “landerfoodbank.org” and facebook page www.facebook.com/landercareandsharefoodbank