

## FISH OF WESTMINSTER, INC – 2018 ANNUAL REPORT

FISH OF WESTMINSTER was established in 1970 by a group of Westminster Christians, called to express their love and concern for their neighbors. In the early days, FISH was the emergency service referral network for the entire city. As the city grew and matured, and more social services became available, FISH evolved in two neighborhood food pantries – one at Westminster Presbyterian Church (WPC) and one at Westminster United Methodist Church (WUMC).

According to the Food Bank of the Rockies, there are currently 39,090 food insecure (people who lack consistent access to enough food for an active, healthy life) people in Adams County. We help families and individuals struggling with food insecurity in Westminster and unincorporated Adams County thrive by obtaining and distributing food and other essentials

In 2017, FISH of Westminster invested in maturing as a community organization – enhancing or developing new partnerships within the community, establishing an Internet presence, and developing effective communication tools.

2018 saw the results of these efforts including:

- Food drives for FISH of Westminster were conducted by new and long-time partners - the City of Westminster, the City of Westminster Youth Advisory Council, the Fraternal Order of Eagles – Aerie 4019, the Baha’i Congregation Westminster Sunday School, Take Off Pounds Sensibly (aka TOPS) at WPC, and Westminster Recreation Center Pottery Group. Significant donations were also received from the “9Cares” community food drive.
- New volunteers from within the community were recruited through the FISH of Westminster Internet page (<https://fishofwestminster.org>).
- Financial donations continued to be received from throughout the community, beyond the members of the two sponsoring congregations.
- Procured, with grants and targeted donations, new refrigerators and freezers at both locations.

Long-time partnerships also continued with:

- Essendant (a wholesale distributor of office supplies), Valente’s Italian Deli and Bakery, Applebee’s Restaurant, and the Cub Scouts of Den 324 all providing support throughout the year.
- Grocery Rescue (a Food Bank of the Rockies program) partnerships with HMart, King Soopers, Miller Farmers Market, Safeway, Starbucks, Walmart and Whole Foods resulted in donations of bakery goods, meat and dairy products, canned and boxed items, produce, and non-food items in excess of **200,000** pounds.

While unemployment within the Front Range remains significantly low, the need for food assistance continues. Each month there are clients who achieve food security through better pay,

but each month there are also new clients who register for assistance. In 2018, FISH of Westminster:

- Assisted **22,625 people** (1,885 people per month),
- Aided **6,450 families**,
- Provided **255,687 meals**,
- Supported **140 homeless individuals** with food and hygiene products.

FISH of Westminster is an entirely volunteer organization with volunteers ranging from 6 years old through 90 years old. These volunteers make it possible to keep our doors open. The **65 volunteers** donated **11,500 hours** last year.

The primary funding sources for FISH of Westminster in 2018 were:

- USDA - The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP),
- City of Westminster Human Services Grant,
- A grant from the Food Bank of the Rockies,
- Donations from members of WPC and WUMC, and
- Donations from citizens throughout the community.

Two annual fundraisers, open to the community, were also sponsored. The first, a Spring Afternoon Tea, took place in the library at WPC. The second, a Pancake Breakfast, was hosted by the Westminster Applebee's Restaurant in September.

Thank you to everyone who has supported FISH of Westminster, Inc. throughout 2018!

FISH of Westminster, Inc. is a proud partner of the Food Bank of the Rockies.