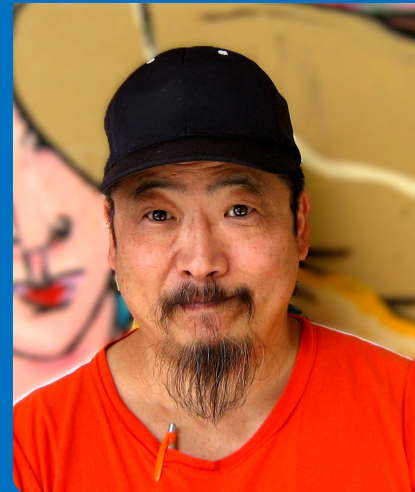




***Social Safety Net Under Attack:
A New Challenge in the Turbulent 2020s***



***INSIDE: How we will adapt and something you can do
now to assist people facing hunger and homelessness.***

Hello neighbors!

We are so grateful to the community of caring people that has kept the Pike Market Senior Center & Food Bank open and *growing* through the **2020s, the most turbulent period in our 47-year history.**

After emerging from Covid, **we face a man-made crisis as the Trump agenda slashes SNAP** (food stamps) and other benefits. This attack on the social safety net will harm thousands of low-income and unhoused clients.

We are already seeing a 16% increase in demand for our food programs since last year. When the Trump cuts were announced this spring, we saw *another* jump in demand. We project **a 20% growth above the current, high demand for our food programs. That will cost us \$85,000** beyond our current food budget.

Around 3,000 of our donors and supporters are receiving this report. **If everyone donates \$30, we will stabilize our food programs** and stretch that money to provide 167,000 meals and bags of groceries in 2025. That may not solve every single problem that is coming at us, but we will be moving in the right direction. This is doable!

We have recent practice with tough times. Covid taught us how to handle a crisis: **We don't panic, we adapt.** And our community of supporters are with us.

Keep reading to see where we're at and where we're headed. And if you are able to make a donation, we would love your help.



Mason Lowe

Mason Lowe, Deputy Director
Pike Market Senior Center & Food Bank



This report will cover some serious topics. Despite the challenges ahead, we will always do our best to offer ways for clients to express themselves and reach their potential.

The Food Stamp cuts have already hit PMSC-FB

- **PMSC-FB has been dealing with the effects of benefit cuts** for over a year.
 - Huge, post-Covid cuts to SNAP in spring 2023 have made food stamps less significant as tool to fight hunger.
- Our data suggests that perhaps **only half of eligible senior clients use SNAP**, even though 85% of Senior Center clients live below the federal poverty level of \$15,650/yr.
 - Clients cite the meager benefit and bureaucratic challenges as barriers.
- **SNAP benefits are already low**, averaging just \$139/month. Many clients receive just **\$23/month**.
- Demand for free meals has been growing since 2023 with increases in 2024 and again when the Trump budget was merely announced this spring. (*See graph next page.*)
- We expect that when they go into effect, **SNAP cuts will drive new clients to the Senior Meals and Food Bank** programs as people with higher benefits lose that support.
- **NOW is the time to stabilize our nutrition programs.** The current situation is unsustainable. It is time to once again work together to nourish our community.



Let's hear from the people who visit the Pike Market Senior Center & Food Bank



Scott

"The main service I use is the meals. This place has been a godsend. It gave me something to do when I was living on the sidewalk. I'm indoors now, but still I'm still here every day. This is a good place to be."

"I was living in a shelter. I came here for breakfast and lunch. Then I started working with a case manager. Today, I have an apartment. I'm working on being active, staying healthy, and I'm writing again."

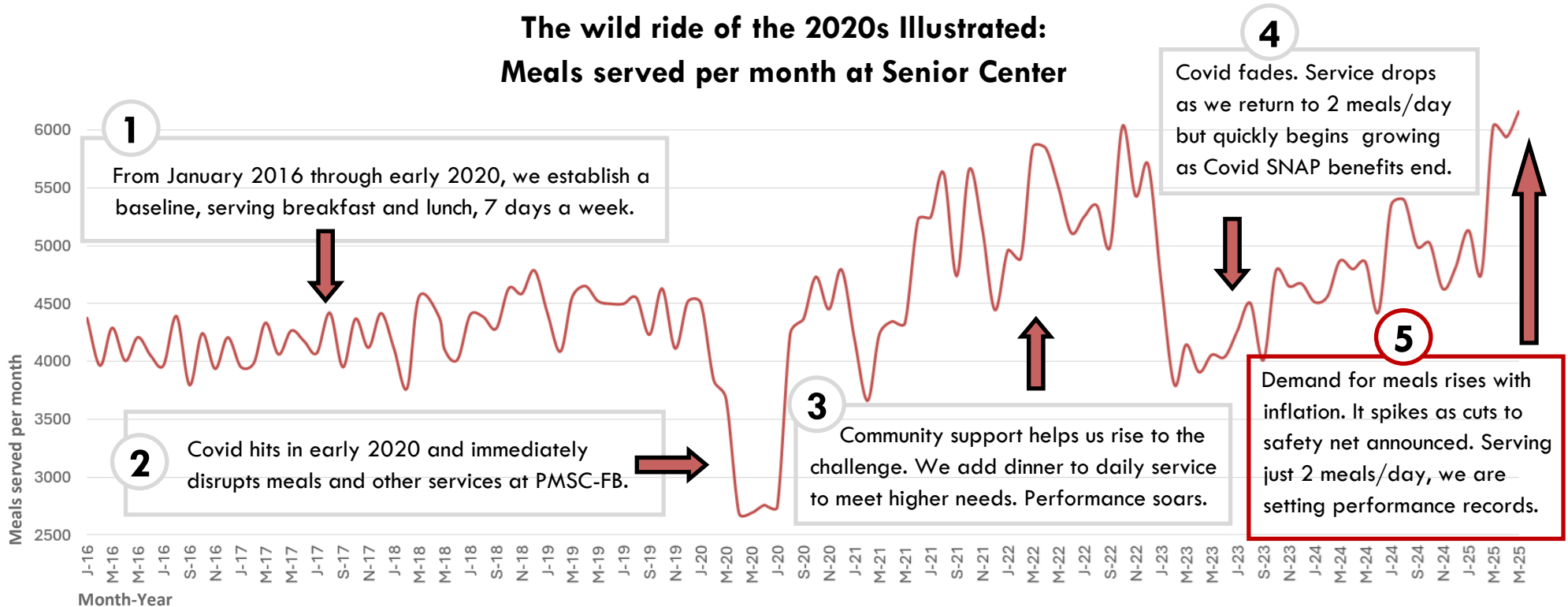


Pamela

PMSC-FB service statistics (Current year: July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025)

Service	Current Year	Previous Year	Analysis
Senior Center free meals	63,751	54,899	Demand for free senior meals has been rising steadily since 2023
Food Bank ready-to-eat services	32,304	20,261	Services for homeless clients at Food Bank has grown by 59%
Food Bank grocery visits	44,209	43,619	Our busy grocery service has been limited by high food costs
Food Bank grocery delivery	15,367	15,121	Grocery deliveries serve elderly clients and those with disabilities

The wild ride of the 2020s Illustrated: Meals served per month at Senior Center



A Word from Executive Director, Pamela Hinckley

Thank you for your support and for taking some time to stay informed on the assistance we offer to our neighbors in Downtown Seattle.

A critical aspect of our work is combining food access with empathy. Serving a fresh meal or setting out a selection of groceries - these are opportunities to make a human connection. Connecting over food glues us together and strengthens our resolve to be of service to our community.

I am so proud of the heartfelt way our staff takes time to learn peoples' names and learn about their lives. Food is at the core of what we do and it is often the first step in meeting peoples' other needs and working towards their goals.

There are many ways to get involved and there is a lot to look forward to in 2025. So please, keep reading!



Something You Can Do to Help RIGHT NOW



The **ready-to-eat program** at our Food Bank offers people without housing a way to get fresh and shelf-stable food without age restrictions or other barriers.

Clients of this service tend to be the most vulnerable people we serve. This program is used over 2,300 times per month!

Protein bars are portable and nutrient-dense. The factors that make them valuable to our neighbors without housing also makes them expensive to buy in bulk.

Scan the code to the left to buy protein bars and have them delivered the Food Bank.

Thank you, from the Food Bank team!



Looking forward to



Join the holiday fun at Pike Place Market on **Saturday, December 6th from 12 noon to 2:30pm.**

There are lots of ways to jump in the action! You can attend, you can form a caroling team, volunteer, or even sponsor this big, beloved, event.

We'd love to answer your questions!

Email: pamela@pikemarket.org or visit www.figgypudding.org



Donor Appreciation Day, Sat. October 25



Discover the Market's hidden gems on a **behind-the-scenes tour of the Market** with agency director Pamela Hinckley! Watch your inboxes and mailboxes for more details.

Left: Food Bank staffer, Liz, picks up donated food from Market vendors.

Saying goodbye to Zoé Freeman

33 years of compassion and understanding from a Market legend



Zoé Freeman, 1943-2025

Visitors to the Senior Center are often surprised by the feeling of positivity when they enter a room full of people from many walks of life, many of whom are facing serious challenges. This welcoming atmosphere didn't "just happen." It was carefully designed over the years and is rebuilt every day by the members and staff of the Senior Center. While everyone at the agency helps put together this positive feeling, the architect was Zoé. The vision was hers.

Zoé had the rare ability to appreciate every person's journey and could identify and encourage their best traits. Zoé left us on February 20th. We miss her every day. Her vision for PMSC-FB remains our north star.