

**There are no words to describe his expression of profound relief in that moment. He cried tears of overflowing gratitude.**

## Freedom from Pain, Tears of Joy

His knee, hip, and back were killing him. The pain was so bad that Terry Butler would endure excruciating spasms for the rest of the day just from getting up to answer the door. All he could do was hobble around with a cane or a walker. It was that bad, and it had gone on for five long years.

Terry had finally been scheduled for surgery to give him his life back. But then — COVID-19 hit, and the government put an end to anything deemed non-essential. Because Terry's condition wasn't considered life-threatening, his surgeries were cancelled. But there wasn't anything non-essential about them to Terry. His light at the end of the tunnel — what he thought was the end of five years of agony — had been snuffed out. He lost his will to go on.



***We knew his pain, and we felt deeply how much hope he had put in that surgery. We feared for his well-being, and just tried to keep encouraging him.***

Our team had been working with Terry for several years, helping him stay safe. He got food from the Food Commodities Program, transportation to his many appointments, and assistance with applying for affordable housing to get him out of the decrepit camper trailer he had been living in. In June, the tide started to turn when he learned he had been accepted into The Mount Vernon Manor, a place to live he could call his own. Terry finally has a home. But he still lived with terrible pain, and it seemed like it could never end.

But then, in August, something incredible happened. We received word that someone had donated a motorized wheelchair. We immediately thought of Terry. We brought the wheelchair to his home at the Manor. And though answering the door had caused him great pain, when he looked at the wheelchair, he was speechless. He literally fell into the wheelchair. **There are no words to describe his expression of profound relief in that moment. He cried tears of overflowing gratitude. Now, Terry can answer his door without pain. He can take the bus to the grocery store and actually shop on his own. He does not need to depend on others for every single basic task of life. He still needs his surgery, but he has been given back a huge part of his life.**

Thank you for giving faithfully. Thank you for making it possible for Terry to get through such a long, dark period of his life, and still come out with hope on the other side.

\*Some photos were taken pre-COVID-19

**We change thousands of lives in Skagit County.**

**Community Action of Skagit County**

330 Pacific Place Mount Vernon, WA 98273

Phone: (360) 416-7585 Fax: (360) 416-7599

Newsletter sponsored by  Regence

**Make a tax-deductible donation at**  
CommunityActionSkagit.org

# Community Action Annual Report Card for 2019

## RESULTS THAT MATTER

WITH HELP FROM **YOU....**

We are able to change lives with our many anti-poverty services.

With your support we serve the entire Skagit County.



**68,181**

people benefited from the Skagit Food Distribution Center



**3,000+**

volunteer hours generated



**388**

veterans supported



**362**

supported with family law, housing or other legal issues



**311**

average monthly food deliveries to place bound seniors

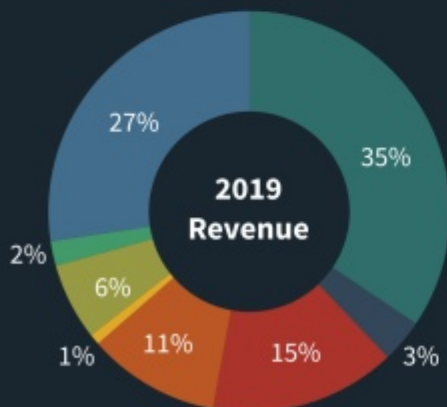


**5,707**

**lunches served**

at the Concrete Community Center

## Our Financials



Federal	<b>\$4,015,224</b>	United Way	<b>\$44,549</b>
State	<b>\$405,457</b>	Donations /fundraising	<b>\$723,694</b>
Local Govern	<b>\$1,751,491</b>	Other revenue	<b>\$236,952</b>
Foundations /corporations	<b>\$1,243,244</b>	In-kind	<b>\$3,192,613</b>

**Total \$11,613,224**



Program services expenses	<b>\$9,921,095</b>
Admin & General	<b>\$667,528</b>
Fundraising	<b>\$257,347</b>

**Total \$10,845,970**





**Helping People. Changing Lives.**

\*Photos were taken pre-COVID-19

# Donors Save East County Man's Life



Rick Booker nearly died. More than once.

First, he had battled a debilitating alcohol addiction after leaving his long-time position with the Forest Service. He was also coming off a serious stroke. While neither of these experiences killed him, they cost him nearly everything. He lost his house. He was relying on disability income. Life was hard.

But then, in 2016, he had to undergo five surgeries all at once to fix a range of problems. In the days and weeks that followed, life became impossible. If you've ever had surgery, you know what happens afterward. You can barely move. You need help just to do basic tasks, like going to the bathroom. And like eating. But Rick had no one to take care of him.

He had no way to get his own food. He could not go to the store. Had someone brought him groceries, he had no way cook. He was truly helpless in those first few months of recovery. Today, Rick believes that if he hadn't gotten help from the Community Action Meal Program — funded by donors like you — he would have starved to death.

Instead, every week day, he received a hot, healthy, balanced meal. With his food needs secured, he was able to focus on his recovery and on getting through the winter. Now, at age 62, Rick is beyond grateful for the help he received. That could not have happened without your compassionate and faithful giving.

***“It has become to feel like family. I haven't had a bad meal once! I enjoy having a place where it feels like home, where I get a feeling of being useful, needed, and welcomed.”***



## Gifts That Make A Difference

Your **\$5,000** donation, gives hope to **two families with kids for a month** at our Family Shelter.

Giving **\$2,500**, ensures a **veteran has housing for 3 months** or buys **1,000 lbs of healthy local produce** for food bank customers.

Donate **\$500** to support **COVID prevention education and safety supplies** in the Spanish-speaking community.

Your gift of **\$250**, provides **emergency firewood** to keep cash-strapped seniors warm and safe.

Donating **\$100**, saves lives by providing a **coat, sleeping bag and a tent** to one of our neighbors on the street.



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

# THANKS FOR GIVING!

Your donations helped us raise over \$88,000!

All proceeds from the **Spirit Of Hope** will go to the greatest needs of our clients through our programs and services.



Save the date for next year, **October 7, 2021.**

Fall 2020

Thank you to our sponsors: Regence, Pacific Woodtech, US Bank, Skagit Regional Health, Banner Bank, Anacortes Noon Kiwanis, and Heritage Bank

Nonprofit  
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Permit No. 180



## 4 Easy Ways To Support Community Action



**Amazon Smiles** Shop Amazon and Community Acton will receive by donation 0.05% of your purchase. Sign up at [smile.amazon.com/ch/91-1140086](https://smile.amazon.com/ch/91-1140086)



**Fred Meyer Community Rewards** Sign up at [fredmeyer.com/communityrewards](https://fredmeyer.com/communityrewards) and then search for Community Acton.



**Ask your employer if they offer payroll deductions to local nonprofits.**

**TIP:** Be sure to put Community Action of Skagit County as the designation.



**Make a tax-deductible donation** on our website [CommunityActionSkagit.org](https://CommunityActionSkagit.org)



### Community Action Services

Behavioral Health Ombudsman

Community Engagement

- Skagit Volunteer Center

East County Services

- Community Center Hot Meal Program

Energy & Home Heating

Education & Employment Services

Assistance Housing

- Family Development Center

- Rental Assistance And Coaching

- Transitional Housing

- Homeless Prevention

Resource Center

- Housing Resource Center

- Veterans Assistance

Volunteer Lawyer Program

Senior &

Disabled

Services

Skagit Food

Distribution Center

Women, Infants And

Children Nutrition Program

Community Action touches the lives of 1 in 5 people in Skagit County.



Learn more on our website [CommunityActionSkagit.org](https://CommunityActionSkagit.org)