

HOPE

Through the Power of Prevention



**community
Action**
OF SKAGIT COUNTY
2025 **Impact Report**



HOPE THROUGH THE POWER OF PREVENTION

For more than 47 years, Community Action of Skagit County has been at the heart of helping our neighbors connect to critical support, overcome barriers, and build pathways to stability and hope.

We first met Anthony when he was recovering from a stroke and dealing with ongoing health challenges, including diabetes, which left him struggling to find steady work and retain stable housing. Through the support of our Employment Team, Anthony received one-on-one guidance to search for work, strengthen his interview skills, and rebuild confidence. With support for car repairs and fuel, he was able to remain a reliable employee, preventing setbacks and keeping his progress on track.

Today, Anthony is thriving in full-time employment, his diabetes is under control, and his confidence has returned. Most importantly, the stability in his life has given him the chance to be a better dad. Anthony's determination fueled the transformation, and Community Action was there to provide steady support along the way.

In human services as well as health care, prevention is key. Prevention is powerful. It works. It's the most humane, least expensive, most impactful solution.



Look around, though, and you may discover that the vast majority of our collective public investments are drained off into crisis response. The same might be said of health care — where emergency rooms too often become the defacto all-purpose, healthcare providers.

Of course, crises and emergencies happen, and when they do, we must be there with the full focus of our compassion and humane care. Our response to historic flooding in Skagit is witness to that.

But if we can help people avoid a crisis, that's when families can dream, set goals, move from surviving to thriving. That's when hope can change a life.

Prevention lays the groundwork for generations to get out from under the cycle of poverty, to rise above the downward spiral of crisis.

That's also where you come in. Your support, partnership, and encouragement help build the capacity and flexibility to focus our work where the return on human investment is highest — on upstream prevention.

Prevention is at the heart of everything we do. Across housing, food, education, supportive employment, and financial stability services, we help families stay secure today while building a stronger, more stable future.

With deep gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bill".

Executive Director

Standing with Families Impacted by Historic Flooding

Hardworking families come to Community Action to avoid crisis. But when disasters like 2025's historic flooding strike, many of our Skagit neighbors face an even greater risk of falling behind. People experiencing poverty often find themselves most in harm's way, based on where they live and work. In 2025, the federal government shutdown cut off food benefits for more than 15,000 families in Skagit County, and historic flooding added to instability. Some families came to one of our four Resource Centers still wearing muddy waders, asking for help. With significant support from partners like the **Skagit Community Foundation**, we stepped in and in 2026 we continue to fill urgent gaps, including deeper support to those families identified as most impacted by the flooding.



Learn more about how Community Action responds in times of crisis and how, together, we're strengthening families to weather whatever storms lie ahead.



Our Resource Center Team provided resources, vouchers and help in Spanish and English at flood shelters and Disaster Assistance Centers.



VISION

A community in which everyone works TOGETHER to end poverty in Skagit County.

MISSION

To break the cycle of poverty in Skagit County by walking alongside people who want to build a hope-filled future for themselves, their children, and our community.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Skagit Valley College

Loly Gomez

Upper Skagit Library

Tina Tate

Skagit Habitat for Humanity

Heather Wallace

Community Member

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Retired

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Mount Vernon Chamber of Commerce

Carl Young, Vice President

Retired

OUR VALUES

Integrity, Compassion, Empowerment, Community, Resilience



Rooted in Community Voice

We are an organization built by and for the people of our community. We are guided by those we serve: underserved and marginalized individuals; families with children; seniors; and veterans. We listen first, learn from lived experience, and act to remove barriers for those seeking opportunities to get ahead. Community voice shapes our programs, priorities, and partnerships, ensuring our work reflects real needs and real solutions. We prioritize leadership that is representative of our community. We help create pathways to prosperity that are grounded in dignity and equity.

BY THE NUMBERS

100
Staff Members

136
Volunteers
7,039 hours

Who We Are

Since 1979, Community Action of Skagit County has grown with our community, responding to emerging needs with comprehensive, prevention-focused solutions. We are governed by a diverse 15-member Board of Directors representing public, private, and client sectors. We are powered by a dedicated team of staff, many with lived experience that informs and strengthens our work. Alongside committed volunteers and community partners, we deliver resources and referrals to services that stabilize lives and equip more than 50,000 people each year to move beyond crisis.





Homelessness Prevention & Intervention

Throughout Skagit County, our Resource Centers offer urgent support including food, clothing, transportation, and other essentials while guiding neighbors toward longer-term programs that promote lasting housing stability. With four locations and more than \$60,000 in direct assistance last year, we provide accessible, comprehensive support to neighbors seeking support.

Our housing programs include both homelessness prevention and rehousing efforts across the community. These include rapid rehousing, supportive housing, our 10-unit Family Shelter program, and temporary placements throughout the county when needed. By combining safe, stable housing with tailored support, we help families and seniors avoid homelessness.



Meeting People Where They Are: Street Outreach

Our “boots on the ground” team met over 1,000 neighbors experiencing homelessness across the county, providing supplies like sleeping bags, tents, snack packs, hygiene products, medical supplies, and pet food while connecting individuals to the services they need. Daniel, a veteran living outdoors, shared that through our Street Medicine Partnership (a collaboration with local doctors and hospital residents) he was able to receive the immediate care he needed to take the next steps toward stability.



Keeping Homes Warm and Families Safe with Energy & Utility Assistance

Energy assistance is homeless prevention! With support from our energy team, 9,420 people were able to keep the heat and lights on, allowing them to put limited income toward other essentials like food, fuel, and school supplies for their children. One senior participant shared, *“Because of your Energy Assistance Program, I get Thanksgiving and Christmas meals AND can stay warm all winter.”*



Independence, Connection, and Care through Senior & Mobility Services

Volunteers helped over 200 older and disabled adults live safely and independently by providing essential support such as running errands, transportation to and from appointments, yard care, minor home repairs, and firewood delivery. One participant shared, *“My volunteer, Gail, has become the most reliable person in my life. She is truly a blessing.”* By meeting the needs of our growing senior community, these services help older and disabled adults stay safe, stable, independent, and connected.



Equipping Families to Get Ahead

Community Action walks alongside people as they work toward greater economic stability. By combining one-on-one guidance, skill-building, and coordinated resources, we help families and individuals move from immediate crisis to long-term stability.

Our prevention work comes to life through our **Whole Family Approach**. This means we put families at the center of their own solutions and support their goals with

coordinated help across housing, food, employment, education, money management, and overall wellbeing. By shifting our approach from immediate crisis response to goal-oriented coaching, we help families build long-term stability and work to end the cycle of poverty. **Our pilot in 2026 will be guided by 10-15 families who will shape this approach with their lived experience.**



A participant in FLARE (Financial Literacy & Renters Education), center, celebrates graduation with our staff and partners.

CARE COORDINATION

Care Coordination provides one-on-one support to help households navigate complex systems and access housing, employment, education, and other vital resources. Our Care Specialists walked alongside more than 250 households in 2025, helping them remain stably housed while pursuing long-term goals.

Rutilia and her husband were working hard as farmworkers with the dream of a better future for their children. Friends and family encouraged Rutilia to visit our WIC office after she became pregnant with their second child. She found more than nutritious food: Her Infant Case Manager, Iris, helped Rutilia set goals for housing and a better job. First step? Coaching on how to get a driver's license. Today the family has an apartment of their own, instead of sharing a basement rental with three other families.



FINANCIAL EDUCATION & EMPLOYMENT

Lasting change happens when individuals gain the skills and opportunities to earn a living wage and plan for their future. Through our Financial Education & Employment programs, over 100 participants gained job readiness skills and essential financial literacy skills to help them secure employment and manage and protect their income. One program graduate shows how prevention makes a difference: With steady support and clear goals, she maintained stable employment and increased her credit score by 107 points in just 12 months. By strengthening her financial foundation early, she built greater stability and a brighter future for herself and her children.

2025 Results & Impact

3%
Veterans
16%
Seniors (65+)

TOTAL NUMBER SERVED	
57,748 Individuals	18,908 Households

18%
Disabled
17%
Unhoused



Measurable Outcomes

HOUSING & HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION



226 individuals
(124 households)
who were housed



2,827 individuals
(2,383 households) who
avoided homelessness

FOOD ACCESS



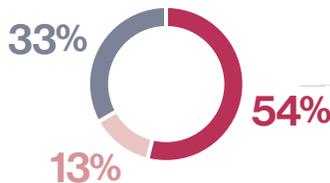
6,030 individuals
(3,721 households) who
gained access to food &
quality nutrition

ECONOMIC STABILITY & GROWTH



8,694 individuals
(3,721 households) who
expanded their income due
to financial assistance

DONOR CONTRIBUTIONS



- Individual: **\$489,426**
- Corporate: **\$119,815**
- Foundation: **\$294,788**

KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

\$70,700

Amount received in Emergency
Response support in 2025

2,000+

Number of families who received
nutrition counseling through WIC
(Women, Infants, & Children
Program)

\$709,769

Amount paid in rent subsidies



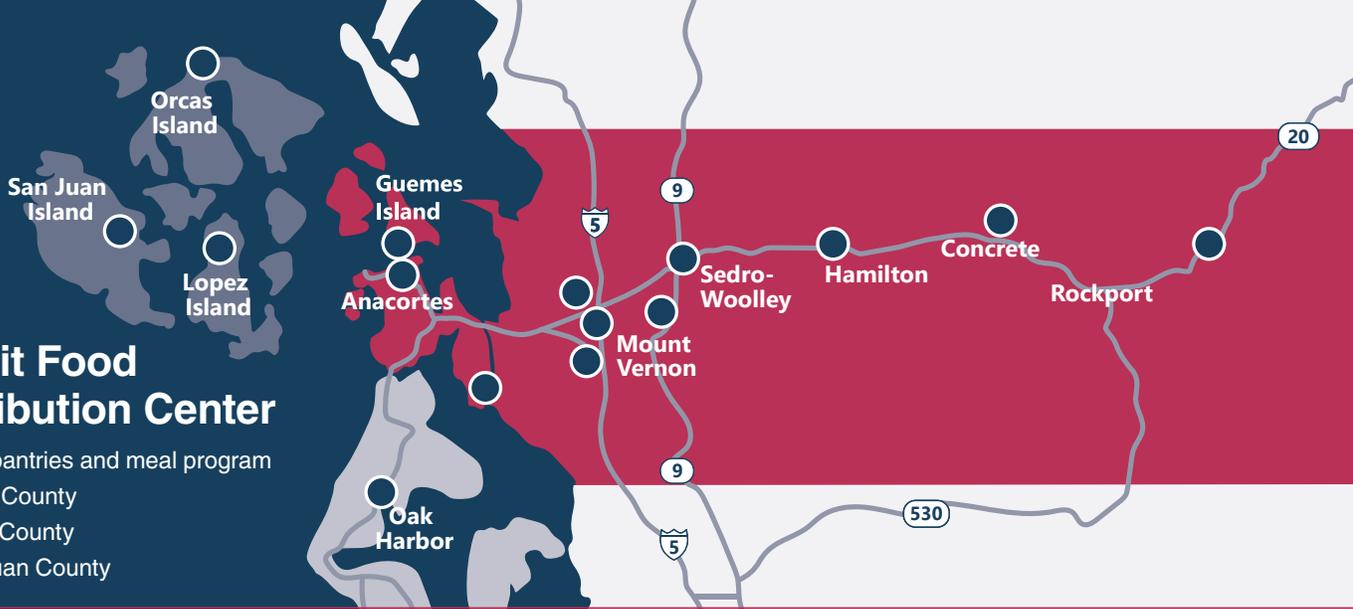
**2025 AUDITED FINANCIALS WILL BE AVAILABLE
ON OUR WEBSITE IN OCTOBER 2026**

To view multiple years of clean audits, please visit
www.CommunityActionSkagit.org/Audit/



Skagit Food Distribution Center

- Food pantries and meal program
- Skagit County
- Island County
- San Juan County



Puget Sound Energy's "Warm Winters" support.

AREAS OF IMPACT

Donors & Partners

Our community's generosity helped neighbors across Skagit County weather a government shutdown, recover from a 100-year flood, and get support before crises took hold. In our largest and most transformative fundraising year yet, we raised over \$900,000 from local donors, businesses, and foundations, showing the powerful impact neighbors like you have on our community.

Right: Erik Olson, owner of Well Fed Farms, partnered with the Skagit Food Distribution Center to expand his reach and give back to the community. A decade ago, Community Action helped fund a critical walk-in cooler and freezer, allowing Olson to scale up production and, by donating directly to the Food Distribution Center, reach more families, seniors, and individuals than he could on his own. The Skagit Valley Food Co-op is helping to re-launch the Farm to Food Bank project.

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

Expanding Food Security

Community Action's Skagit Food Distribution Center remains the backbone of the region's hunger relief network, distributing more than 3.5 million pounds of food to over 20 partner food banks and meal programs across Skagit, San Juan, and Island counties. With over \$270,000 raised in 2025, our small but dedicated team was able to bring in fresh, local produce from 35 area farms through direct purchasing and donations, ensuring families, seniors, and individuals have healthy, nutritious food.

In September, the **Skagit Valley Food Co-op**, a partner for nearly 20 years, launched the Feeding Change Register Round-Up Program, raising over \$67,000 to support the Skagit Food Distribution Center in 2025. They also contributed \$100,000 through the Growing Good Fund to re-launch our Farm to Food Bank project, which invests in local small farm infrastructure in exchange for fresh local fruits and vegetables for families. Programs and partnerships like these highlight the value of local farms and help prevent hunger by putting fresh, nutritious food on the tables of those who need it most.



**MORE ABOUT
COMMUNITY ACTION'S
FOOD DISTRIBUTION
CENTER**



**MORE ABOUT THE
CO-OP'S FEEDING
CHANGE REGISTER
DONATION PROGRAM**



**MORE ABOUT
FARM TO
FOOD BANK
PROJECT**



330 Pacific Place
Mount Vernon, WA 98273



Strengthening Families Through Stable Housing: Partnership with Mount Vernon School District

Breaking ground in 2026, Kulshan View will be our second housing development. An innovative partnership with Mount Vernon School District, Kulshan View is located across the street from LaVenture Middle School. This two-phase affordable housing development will create 48 apartments designed for local students and families experiencing or at risk of homelessness, including low-income farmworker families.

Students and their families will receive tailored supportive services called Whole Family Approach, helping them achieve housing stability, educational success, and overall wellbeing. By pairing safe, stable housing with coordinated supports, Kulshan View will reduce student homelessness, helping to support their educational pathway out of generational poverty, and creating the solid foundation families need to thrive.

ALL OF US ARE BETTER OFF WHEN KIDS HAVE A SAFE PLACE TO CALL HOME.



VOLUNTEER



DONATE

WWW.COMMUNITYACTIONSAGIT.ORG

