

# Ferndale Community Service Cooperative

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## 2018 Annual Report

The Ferndale Community Service Cooperative is a nonprofit organization that provides structure for community groups to work together, coordinate efforts, and share resources. In 2018 122 volunteers donated 5,453 hours of service across to their neighbors to help families and individuals meet basic needs, stay connected, and build community.



**Community Resource Center:** Located at 5694 Second Avenue, the Resource Center provides one on one assistance with job search, resource navigation and referrals, clothing, and a friendly face for Ferndale residents. In 2018 we provided 2,384 services and handed out 14,745 items of clothing to men, women, and children. A team of 21 volunteers provided 1079 hours of service.



**Friendship Community Garden:** The Garden, located near Star Park, rents 25 plots each year for a small fee. Families and individuals can grow their own food and learn from each other. Garden volunteers donated a total of 1,136 hours in 2018. Additionally the First Fruits Food Bank Garden, which grows food for the Ferndale Food Bank, grew 5,250 pounds of restaurant quality produce.



**The Other Bank:** Did you know that food stamp benefits don't cover hygiene or cleaning supplies? Thanks to donations and financial support from the community, the Other Bank was able to provide 625 Ferndale School District families with 3428 individual allotments of things like shampoo, laundry soap, toilet tissue, toothpaste, diapers, etc. Families that receive free and reduced lunch through Ferndale schools qualify. Distribution happens from 10-noon, Tuesdays at 5694 Second Avenue.



**Holiday Giving Store:** Thanks to the generosity of local businesses, organizations, and individuals, and with the help of 42 volunteers, the HSG was able to provide Christmas gifts to 395 Ferndale kids. Youngsters from birth to age 18 are eligible for the program if their family qualifies for free and reduce school lunch through Ferndale schools.



**Family Community Funds:** Family Fund coordinators work in tandem with Ferndale schools to help students be ready to learn when they enter the classroom. In 2018, they sorted and distributed supplies and provided over 200 backpacks to low income students.



**Volunteer Mobilization Center:** The VMC works with Whatcom County Sheriff's Office to coordinate spontaneous volunteers throughout the County during and after disasters. In 2018, the VMC hosted a countywide forum "Living in the Shadow of an Active Volcano." 56 volunteers donated 2,786 to this project.



**Family Meals Project:** The FMP offers information and hands on experience in planning, preparing, and sharing budget friendly home cooked meals. In 2018, FMP regrouped to enhance its offerings. Watch for exciting changes in 2019.