



THE CTK BLESSING

*T*ogether, our generosity
weaves a patchwork
of God's blessing
throughout our
community.

HELP US CONTINUE TO SUPPORT

FAMILIES IN NEED • COMMUNITY PARTNERS
FOOD SHARE & FARM • SERVICE PROJECTS

Welcome to Blessing Month 2025!

The pages of this booklet describe the ways the people of CTK band together to invest in the lives of our church family and our neighbors. But there's much more to the CTK Blessing than pictures or budgets could ever capture!

The Blessing is our expression of God's care and provision to the community we live in.

It's our obedience to the commands of Scripture that we bear the burdens of our brothers and sisters in Christ (Galatians 6) and demonstrate a living faith by our actions (James 2).

It's the context of our formation as we serve, feed, and love Whatcom County as Christ would.

It's our evidence of the good news—the bridges of relationship and credible love that become channels for the gospel.

It's our picture of the Kingdom of God where wrong is made right, where healing and restoration replace pain and lack.

May our light so shine before men!

Wendy Powell, Community Outreach Pastor

Please note: Goal amounts shown reflect our budgeted plans for the CTK Blessing in 2026. All giving will be pooled in a single fund to be distributed among these needs at the sole discretion of the Blessing Team staff.

This year's giving will fund ministry in this order:

\$60,000

CTKers in financial need

\$20,000

Scholarships & Counseling Assistance

\$50,000

Food Share & Farm

\$30,000

Response Team Service Projects

\$10,000

Administration & Training

\$50,000

Community Partnerships

\$30,000

Partner Collaborations

\$250,000

TOTAL GIVING GOAL

THE CTK BLESSING (BENEVOLENCE)

When a crisis hits someone in our church family, we rally.

Since 2003, our church has committed to supporting each other spiritually, relationally, and financially when a crisis hits. Each year about 100 CTK families experience a sudden loss, injury, or tragedy. With inflation affecting the cost of food, clothing, shelter, and transportation, families have less margin and less savings to get through a rough patch.

Our Blessing Coordinator is at the ready to come alongside, help them access community resources and find ways your collective generosity can fill in the gaps. It's a beautiful thing to be part of God's answers to a fellow CTKers prayers for help.



Learn more at
ctk.church/blessing



Rising cost of living means it takes more Blessing funds to fill the gap for a CTK family in crisis.

Since 2020, the cost of living in Whatcom County has changed:

- Average mortgage payment up 49%
- Rental prices up 67%
- Gallon of milk up 37%
- Median income up only 15%

CTK FOOD SHARE & FARM MINISTRY

Sharing food to bring hope to our hungry neighbors

Each year our team of 150+ volunteers grows about 65 tons of produce, collects thousands of donated non-perishable items, and drives that food to 32 different partners all over Whatcom County. As needs rise in our community, we are working with our Food Share partners to adapt to the changing landscape of food relief funding and private donations.



Freshly harvested beets against the backdrop of the CTK Farm fields

Gathering for prayer with our partner Agape before a harvest workday

Here are some ways we've been impacting our community:

- Item of the Month Club members donated over 15,000 nonperishable food items this year. Text **FOOD** to **360-800-4173** to join the club and meet a specific need requested by one food share partner each month.
- **180** people harvested over **165,000** pounds of food to give away
- Farm visitors: **300** kids, **4** community partners, several small groups, and over **300** visitors on the Sustainable Connections farm tour

We've always believed that our impact would come through not just the food we share but also through our people living out their faith. Ultimately our work is our testimony, and the community is noticing!



Thank you for remaining faithful in giving to the item of the month drive. The consistently overflowing bin is a blessing to our partners.



Volunteers plant the first 800 of 2,000 tomato plants in our largest greenhouse



Johnny and Bryan filming our farm documentary that debuted this year.

Watch the film at ctk.link/farmfilm



Learn more at
ctk.org/foodsharefarm



RESPONSE TEAMS MINISTRY

See a need, meet a need together in Jesus' name

The Response Teams ministry is focused on responding to the practical needs of our community partners. But we aren't just throwing people at a project. One of the most important aspects of Response Teams is the unique opportunity to express our faith and hope by putting the love of Christ into action.

The goal with Response Teams is to come alongside our partners and the work they're already doing in the community. We want to meet their specific needs and let them be the experts while we are the hands and feet supporting them.

Often, our projects create mental and literal space, easing the burden of lingering projects so our partners can focus on the important work they are committed to. Filling those gaps is our specialty!



Chelsea and Debbie bring clarity to the dirt-covered windows at New Way Ministries

The numbers speak for themselves on how we come alongside our partners:

295 volunteers contributed over **1600** hours to painting, building, landscaping, and more. That's the equivalent of **40** full-time work weeks for our community partners, many with limited to no maintenance staff.

12 projects completed for **12** partners between May and September. That's an average of **2** projects each month!



Sam and Zander are a gift as they help organize at the Lydia Place storage unit



It's all smiles for Frank, Dale, Sylvia, and Brian painting the new Whatcom Pregnancy Clinic



Hayli and Annika put the finishing touches on raised flowerbeds at AHA! Childcare



Learn more at
ctkserves.org/respond

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

Learning how best to help from local experts

We've chosen to meet needs outside our church family through community partnerships that help us put our faith in action for the good of the particular group of people they serve. Our partners serve people in 5 areas: kids & families, unhoused neighbors, those with disabilities, survivors, and those struggling with food insecurity.

Each partner helps us better understand the complex realities they face and points us to the ways of helping that actually help. In return, we're able to bless their staff and clients through service projects, financial support, collaborative efforts, and volunteers. So whether it's Dementia Support NW's expertise in supporting families caring for a loved one or Road 2 Home's expertise in building relationships with our unhoused neighbors, each partnership is a relationship that catalyzes God's work right here in Whatcom County.



Learn more at
ctkserves.org/partners



Wendy, Brittany and Rochelle exploring new ways CTK can support Lighthouse Mission staff

There's no end to the variety of things we help purchase for our partners:

- A chairlift for the stairs into CAP's offices in an old church in Blaine (\$1500)
- Games and crafts for Be the One mentors (\$300 for each district)
- A new commercial fridge for AHA! Childcare in Ferndale (\$2500)
- Paint for the new Whatcom Pregnancy Clinic (\$1950)

PARTNER COLLABORATIONS

Projects and funds that meet unique partner needs

Every year since 2016, we've had opportunities to go above and beyond the financial support of the nonprofits we partner with or the service projects we've planned for them. We keep our eyes open for strategic, meaningful ways to offer our people, our generosity, and our building to make a real difference for our partners and the people they serve.

This year, we ambitiously partnered with the National Association of Letter Carriers and the Bellingham Food Bank to tackle the collection and sorting of 66,554 pounds (33 tons) of food. During one week in May, hundreds of CTKers descended upon the waterfront warehouse to meticulously sort food into categories. Each sorting shift brought a new group of volunteers and new challenges that were faced with patience and determination. Many stayed late, came back for multiple shifts, and grew in relationship with each other, all in the name of Jesus, to provide food to those in need.

The collaboration blessed Bellingham Food Bank, Seniors Helping Seniors, Whatcom Community College Orca Pantry, SeaMar FARMacia Program, Meridian School District Family Resource Center, Salvation Army, and Southside Food Bank so that they could distribute the food to those in need.



Marian and Lily sort through some canned veggies



Learn more at
ctkserves.org/sorting

THE CTK BLESSING TEAM

Where have we seen God at work?



Daylee Baker-Hames, Outreach Coordinator

God has the most intentional way of working in and through our volunteers and staff. It is a privilege to have a front row seat to him building chosen families through service, healing false narratives through consistency, and giving companionship in seasons of loss. He's never just up to one thing, but rather takes our yes and multiples it again and again.



Faith Whaley, Food Share & Farm Director

This year I've seen God move in response to our "yes" to the postal food drive sorting (even when we had no idea what that truly meant)! I've watched him call others to say yes and give favor in hard situations, then witnessed hundreds of you serving him by sorting 67,000 lbs of food to feed our neighbors. The way he protected us and guided us through that huge feat was the biggest way I saw God move this year!



Keri Allen, Blessing Coordinator

I see God show up in the lives of our Blessing clients in many ways but especially through provision, support, encouragement, and community. God uses his people in wonderfully unique ways to meet the needs of his people.



Nathan Ford, Community Outreach Director

I get to witness a circle of transformation in real time as people serve together. An internal change leads folks to step into a service project, which results in an external change in the actual execution of a project, which leads to further internal change and so forth. God shows how submitting to his will and ways leads to the construction (literally) of his kingdom before our very eyes. And that construction then fuels us toward further transformation.



Wendy Powell, Community Outreach Pastor

I saw Jesus through the Blessing Team as they supported, encouraged, and extended grace for one another working an incredibly hard 6 week sprint to pull off the postal food sorting project. Stress and fatigue revealed their character and dependence on Christ.

How do I give?



Online

You can give online anytime at give.ctk.church.

Select **Bellingham Campus**, then enter an amount in the **Blessing Bellingham** field.

If you need any assistance, call our finance team at 360-733-1337.

Cash or Check

You can give cash or checks using a green CTK Blessing envelope. Drop it in the offering or at reception during business hours (M–Th 9 AM–4 PM). You're also welcome to mail your gift to Christ the King Church, 4173 Meridian St., Bellingham, WA 98226.

Please memo your check **CTK Blessing** and do not indicate a specific Blessing ministry or project on your check. We will fund ministries in the order found on the inside front cover of this booklet.

On behalf of each of our Community Partners, each of our Food Share partners, and every single CTK family that will find support in the coming year through your generosity, thank you!

***Reminder:** All giving will be pooled in a single fund to be distributed among these needs at the sole discretion of the Blessing Team staff.*



CHRIST THE KING
COMMUNITY CHURCH

Learn more at
ctkserves.org