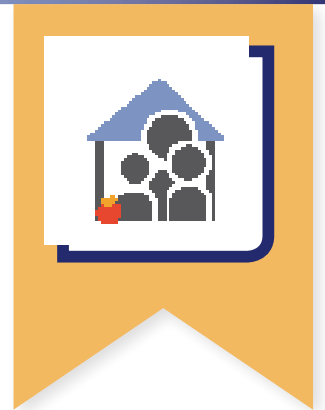


## WHAT THIS PLACE NEEDS IS...



### ...MORE STABLE FAMILIES

As a young boy, Jose was taught by his parents to give back. He was always the guy in the office collecting food or leading the fundraiser. However, when he was laid off unexpectedly, Jose soon found himself relying on the programs he had supported. Unprepared for a 40 percent cut to their income, Jose and his wife Lori couldn't make ends meet.

"We were fighting to feed our children. We were fighting to keep our home," said Lori.

That's when they turned to FISH Food Bank for help. The nutritious food provided by their weekly trips to the food bank, helped stretch their income and stabilize their family.

"Suddenly, I found myself using the resources I had helped," explained Jose. "United Way can make a difference."

With a little more time on his hands, Jose also continued his passion for giving back by volunteering at the food bank every week.

*FISH Food Banks is just one of the many programs receiving funding from United Way of Pierce County. By focusing on programs that help young children and their families, we can remove the barriers preventing them from breaking the cycle of poverty.*

Providing the basic needs and support that helps people get on their feet and move toward stability.

### Why It Matters

**144,000** people visit food banks each month. Nearly **half** of those are working families

It is estimated that **2 in 5 homeless** in Pierce County are children.

**33 percent of callers to South Sound 2-1-1** lived in homes with children under the age five.

**Food, shelter and utility assistance**, basic needs, are the top resources needed by callers to South Sound 2-1-1.