



## Broomfield FISH

### Vision

FISH seeks to create a caring community environment and together, neighbors helping neighbors, offer a safety net and a pathway to self-sufficiency for those in need.

### Mission

To meet our neighbors' basic human needs and provide them with the hope and tools to rise out of poverty.

1963  
Established

Serving  
City and County  
of Broomfield

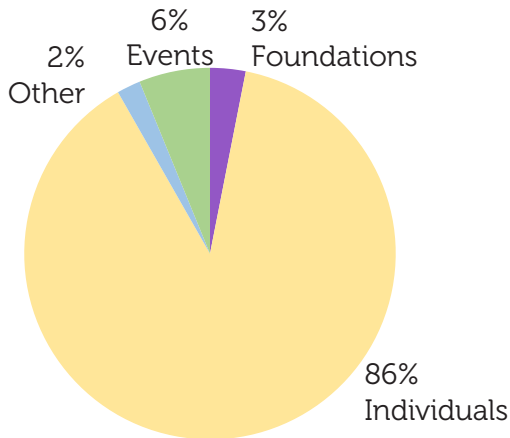
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Staff

\$1,945,937  
2019 Budget

6,100  
residents served annually

501(c)(3)  
Org Structure

### Types of Funding



### Key Programs

- Food marketplace
- Emergency financial assistance to meet basic needs
- Navigator Program to create pathways to self-sufficiency
- Case management/resource and referrals to partner organizations
- Confident Parenting with BECC
- Keeping Families Housed program to stabilize families
- Invent HQ Makerspace

### Serving Our Community

Broomfield FISH was founded in 1963 through a collaboration between six Broomfield churches and was originally called "Broomfield Church Women United" and then "Fellowship In Serving Humanity" or just FISH. Recognizing that many community members did not have access to food and other important services, they decided to help. With the support and commitment of local volunteers and faith communities, they began donating and distributing food to those in need.

In 2001, the organization incorporated and in 2002 became a 501(c)(3) organization. Shortly thereafter, the Board of Trustees formed a partnership with the City and County of Broomfield, expanding services to include not only a thriving food pantry, but also transportation assistance, rent and utility assistance and other services. During the past 55+ years, FISH has grown into a vital community resource, serving approximately 6,100 people each year.

Highlights

Through a generous agreement with the City and County of Broomfield, FISH moved to a much larger space and consolidated all of our services under one roof at 6 Garden Center. This enabled FISH to streamline and improve its operations to better serve families in need. With the move, FISH adopted a self-shop model in its new Marketplace so that families can shop for themselves, choose what they need, and come more frequently so that nobody goes hungry. The new building has also meant new partnerships. One example is a collaboration with the Broomfield Early Childhood Council to develop two play spaces for children—one in the FISH reception area and the other in the Marketplace. While parents shop for food, children can learn about nutrition and healthy eating habits.

The need for emergency food and financial assistance in Broomfield has skyrocketed, primarily because the cost of housing has risen dramatically and wages have not kept pace. Over the past three years, FISH has nearly doubled the amount of food it is distributing, and visits to its pantry increased from 5,686 in 2017 to 9,286 in 2018. At the same time, emergency rent assistance requests have tripled. The organization's current goals center on an ability to effectively meet the growing need for services to fight hunger and prevent homelessness in Broomfield. We are proud to report that more than 250 volunteers donate more than 22,000 of their time to FISH annually.



Family Success Story

Steve is almost 60 years old with a wife and two teenage children. Three years ago, he had a serious infection that resulted in multiple hospital stays, expensive surgeries, and the eventual loss of one leg. The medical bills left him destitute—he lost his job, his house and his car. He visited FISH for food and learned that we could also provide emergency financial assistance, one-on-one job mentoring, and referrals to other organizations to help stabilize his family. After coming to FISH for a year, he was able to rent a new home, secure a well-paying job, and put his life back together. He says, "FISH is so much more than a food pantry—they give you hope for the future!"



How You Can Help

- Donate food to the FISH Marketplace
  - Volunteer at FISH
- Create birthday bags for families
  - Join a workgroup to help address specific needs at FISH

