The Island Food Pantry is part of a larger, integrated food security strategy led by Island Grown Initiative (IGI). Across programs, IGI strengthens food access and education for over 5,000 Pantry clients, 2,500 school children, and 150 sliding-scale CSA households. The Pantry serves as the anchor of this ecosystem, addressing urgent need while reinforcing long-term community resilience.

What distinguishes the Island Food Pantry is both its scale and its philosophy. Serving one in five year-round residents reflects the depth of need, but also the depth of trust. The zero-barrier model removes stigma. The emphasis on fresh, local, and culturally relevant food honors dignity. The coordinated rescue and gleaning system builds efficiency and environmental stewardship into the response. Rather than functioning as a temporary safety net, the Pantry has become foundational community infrastructure in a place where the cost of living continues to rise and vulnerability often remains hidden behind the prosperity of seasonal visitors.

In a small, geographically isolated community, resilience depends on strong relationships and coordinated systems. The Island Food Pantry embodies both. It connects growers and grocers with families. It bridges cultural and language divides. It supports elders, children, workers, and tribal members alike. By welcoming more than 5,000 individuals with zero barriers, the Pantry strengthens not only individual households but the social and economic fabric of the Island itself.