



For Immediate Release

Press Release

Contact:

Colleen Martinson

colleenm@ballardfoodbank.org

BALLARD FOOD BANK SEEKS COMMUNITY SUPPORT TO BUILD NEW HOME AS PANDEMIC INCREASES NEED

SEATTLE, MARCH 18, 2021 – With the construction of its new home underway, Ballard Food Bank is now inviting the Seattle community to donate the remaining funds for the project. The nonprofit hopes to raise \$1.7 million through its Hope Beyond Hunger campaign over the next several months.

“The past year has shown that we absolutely need a bigger, better Ballard Food Bank,” said Ballard Food Bank Executive Director Jennifer Muzia. “We have faced so many challenges during the pandemic: responding to ballooning needs, transforming our operations, and keeping our clients, staff, and volunteers safe. But our community has repeatedly come together to make our work possible. We are confident that community will come together again to get us over the finish line for our new home.”

Over the past year, the devastating impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic have increased the urgency for a larger, updated food bank and community resource hub. In February of 2020, 3,200 people visited the Food Bank or received food deliveries. One year later, that number had doubled to more than 6,400, including many people who had never needed food assistance before.

“For decades, Ballard Food Bank has been providing food and services for people in our community. Now we are thrilled that everyone can contribute to its next evolution: a fantastic new food bank and resource hub. Together, we can all bring food and hope to our neighbors in need,” said Ballard Food Bank Board Member and Hope Beyond Hunger Chair Julia Weisenburger.

The new building, located on 1400 N.W. Leary Way, will allow Ballard Food Bank to support more people and offer increased resources to residents experiencing poverty. The expanded operation will serve a larger area including Licton Springs through Bitter Lake and up to 145th

Street. Several of these communities have pressing needs and the Food Bank will provide greater access to nutritious food and other services.

With the support of foundations, state and city government, and Seattle-based businesses, the nonprofit has raised \$12.2 million so far, 88% of their total fundraising goal. Ballard Food Bank is counting on the broader community to help raise the remaining \$1.7 million to complete the development of its new, permanent home in Northwest Seattle.

“We are hopeful others will join the Gates Foundation and the many other donors – both foundations and individuals – in what we believe is as a vital investment in the strength of our community,” explains Amy Carter, Director of Community Engagement at the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. “Ballard Food Bank’s new home will be a phenomenal facility serving the Ballard and surrounding communities for decades to come.”

Ballard Food Bank expects to welcome folks through the doors of the new building in fall of 2021. At 11,000 square feet, the new facility will be double the size of their current operation and include a bigger grocery-store style food bank, an expanded Community Resource Hub, a community garden, more storage for the Weekend Food for Kids and Home Delivery Programs, a café where visitors can share food and community, and signage in four languages. Conceptualized during a pandemic, the building will also feature enhanced public health and safety elements.

Community members and businesses interested to giving to the Hope Beyond Hunger campaign can learn more about the project and make a contribution at www.ballardfoodbank.org/ournewhome.

About Ballard Food Bank:

Ballard Food Bank’s mission is to bring food and hope to our neighbors because there can be enough for everyone. We serve individuals living in Northwest Seattle, including Ballard, Magnolia, Queen Anne, Fremont, Phinney Ridge, Green Lake, Westlake, and parts of South Lake Union. To achieve our mission, we provide access to nutritious foods and services that support self-sufficiency, and we advocate for food equity and justice. For more information, please visit <https://www.ballardfoodbank.org/ournewhome>.

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