

TOP 3 WAYS TO HELP YOUR NEIGHBORS

1. Volunteer

Folks are helping out with all parts of our work. Volunteers help unload trucks, prep bags to be delivered, staff the drive-thru, deliver food on doorsteps, and complete remote tasks to organize behind the scenes. We count on volunteers and are so grateful for their contributions. You can learn more and fill out a volunteer application on our website: www.ballardfoodbank.org/volunteer



Pictured: First-time volunteer Maria. She feels lucky to be able to work remotely but was getting anxious and wanted to help her community.

2. Donate food items

Our donations are fluctuating greatly at this time. Items from our Amazon wishlist and a list of most needed items are kept up to date on our website. Please visit our website for our most urgent needs: www.ballardfoodbank.org

3. Make a financial donation

Financial gifts keep us nimble during changing times. These donations help us serve our community of northwest Seattle, including the neighborhoods of Magnolia, Queen Anne, Ballard, parts of South Lake Union, Fremont, Phinney Ridge, Greenwood, Greenlake, and Licton Springs. You can make an online donation at: www.ballardfoodbank.org

GIVE BIG TO BALLARD FOOD BANK ON MAY 5-6



The need is bigger than ever. You can help.

Community is at the heart of Ballard Food Bank. It's only through the support of neighbors like you that we're able to bring hope to those who need it the most.

For more information and to donate please visit: www.givebigwa.org/ballardfoodbank

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Visit our website for information on donating, volunteering, and more!

www.ballardfoodbank.org

Weekly updates can be found on our social media pages!



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WE ARE NEIGHBORS HELPING NEIGHBORS.

Newsletter — Spring 2020

A NOTE FROM JEN



Jen restocking our newly improvised drive-thru food bank.

Recently I was asked if there is a silver lining during all of this. I don't know that I would call it that. Instead I would say this crisis has reaffirmed something I've always believed. **Our community is strong and in a time of crisis we come together to take care of one another.** It gives me hope to see neighbors reaching out to volunteer, donate and ask how they can help.

I see this hope as our family of volunteers is expanding. Many of our volunteers who we have relied on over the years are, rightly so, stepping back to take care of themselves or loved ones in this time and sending us strength from the sidelines. New faces are stepping in – teachers, restaurant workers who have lost jobs, tech workers, parents, students – it's a larger family now.

Life at Ballard Food Bank bustled on a normal day. Now, each day it feels like we are pivoting as we learn and adapt to a better way of serving our neighbors in a pandemic. **We worry for those we serve – how to keep them healthy during this time when many of them are the most vulnerable.** Our staff is focused on keeping all of us safe. We've been

innovative. With our clients at the center we continue to ask ourselves what are the best ways to get them food safely?

Yet, while we all feel anxious we know that the power of our mission and community is strong. We are making certain that children still have food on the weekends. That our seniors are fed and our neighbors who are homeless can still access food when there are fewer places to turn to in this time.

During all of this I keep our future at the top of mind. **We are already starting to see new faces who need food. Unfortunately, I anticipate this will continue and grow as we see businesses shuttered and countless unemployed or furloughed.** When we move to the recovery phase I know that our community will need more than just food. Our neighbors will need to access our financial assistance program and Hub partners so that we can support them in getting back on their feet.

We are bursting at the seams in our current building, and while we continue to meet the

increased demands from our community, a new, larger space will position us to be more responsive, serve more people during times of crisis.

The fact is while we don't know when this pandemic will end, we do know that more and more people will turn to Ballard Food Bank, and we are committed to being there for them today and as we recover.

Thank you for being there with us,

Jen Muzia, Executive Director

P.S. The crisis is top of mind but I am also looking towards the future and the urgent need for a bigger home for BFB. Connect with me if you'd like to talk about ways to help: jenm@ballardfoodbank.org

PIVOTING IN A TIME OF CRISIS

Bringing food and hope to our neighbors remains our top priority, as is keeping everyone safe. We've had to create many new systems since the onset of Covid-19, and we're so grateful to everyone who has pitched in to help and to you, our supporters who keep us strong.

Home delivery

We've rapidly increased home delivery, to temporarily allow folks to stay home but still get the groceries they need for themselves and their families. Volunteers have quickly stepped up to the task, delivering food to hundreds of new doorsteps each week. We also have delivered truckloads to low-income housing complexes.

Drive-thru food access

Remaining in their personal vehicle, folks are welcome to drive through and receive groceries, minimizing person-to-person contact.

Mail service

We remain open 4 days per week for the 500 neighbors who utilize our address to receive mail, recognizing how essential this service is for social security checks, employment, connections to loved ones, and more.

Many folks in our community have expressed their appreciation. One of our neighbors was recently brought to tears while using the drive-thru. She and her neighbor are seniors and were afraid about where to access food. Because of Ballard Food Bank, they were able to find food in a safe way.

Emergency financial assistance

Our financial assistance for eviction and utilities is available by phone or email. While evictions have been put on hold, we are working with folks who have set up payment plans with their landlords, and we are helping them make a payment on their plan.

For our unhoused neighbors

Sandwiches and grab-and-go items are available 4 days per week. As other meal programs in the area have had to close, this option remains critical. We've also started delivering food to encampments and tiny house villages.

Adding temporary staff

Our small but mighty operations team is front-line, providing for our community. We have added 2 additional employees to help with the workload. Keeping staff mentally and physically healthy is vital.

For regularly updated services and hours visit www.ballardfoodbank.org



Pictured left to right: banner greeting our neighbors using the drive-thru, volunteer BJ helping a client receive groceries.

HOW YOU'VE HELPED US BE HERE FOR OUR COMMUNITY

PAST

Our old location was on 24th Ave in Ballard.

Even though our space was small, we did a lot with a little. This is where we developed our values of food, hope, and community. During difficult times, we were there for our neighbors.



From the archives: This photo was taken at Ballard Food Bank in 2004.

PRESENT

We evolved to meet the needs of our neighbors.

In our current home, we serve our neighbors holistically. We are more than just a food bank. We've been with our neighbors through tough times. We helped our community during the 2008 market crash, when government employees were furloughed in 2019, and the current health crisis we are facing with COVID-19.



Affectionately called "the big blue building" on Leary Ave. Our lease ends here in 2021.

"Our work at Ballard Food Bank is all about hope – for today and the future. As a volunteer for 12 years, I have seen how things have changed. But many things remain the same. We still work really hard to develop those important relationships with our clients. We are here for our neighbors when they need us and will continue to be there for them in the future." -Susanne D., Volunteer

FUTURE

We have secured the land for our permanent home.

For the first time in our history, we will own our building. Our new home will be twice the size of our current space, allowing us to serve even more people. Groundbreaking will happen in late 2020 and we will open our new space in October 2021. As our community recovers from COVID-19, we will be there to welcome even more people.



Rendering of our future home on 14th Ave and Leary Way.

