



*Serving
individuals
in need with
compassion,
dignity and
respect*

FISH Food Banks of Pierce County

621 Tacoma Ave. S, Suite 202
Tacoma, WA 98402
253-383-3164

www.fishfoodbanks.org

Bread Box/South Tacoma

Tacoma Christian Fellowship
5010 South G St.
Tacoma, 98409

Edgewood

Mountain View Lutheran Church
3505 122nd Ave. East
Edgewood, 98372

Graham/South Hill

Holy Disciples Catholic Church
10425 187th St. East
Puyallup, 98374

Jackson Street

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church
7419 South 12th St.
Tacoma, 98465

Key Peninsula

Key Peninsula Lutheran Church
4213 Lackey Rd. KPN
Lakebay, 98349

Lakes Area

United Methodist Church
at Lakewood
6900 Steilacoom Blvd. SW,
Lakewood, 98499

Northwest FISH

Mason United Methodist Church
2710 North Madison
Tacoma, 98407

Southeast FISH

Lutheran Church of
Christ the King
1704 East 85th St.
Tacoma, 98445

FISH goes mobile!

by Judith Jones

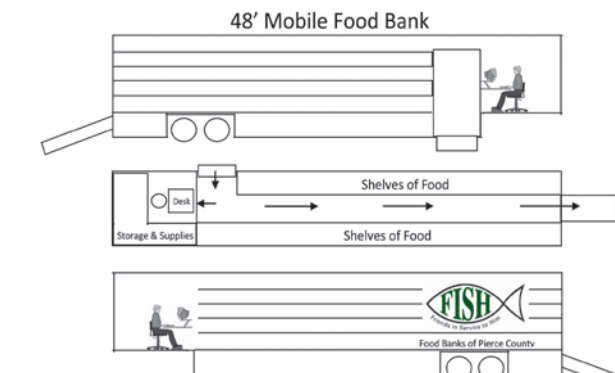
FISH Food Banks is very excited to announce that we are preparing to launch our first mobile food bank this fall. This pilot project will be the first completely self-contained mobile food bank in Pierce County and one of only a few in the country.

The project is being spearheaded by one of our board members, an experienced trucker who has purchased a 45' furniture van. The van is being outfitted for this project by the addition of a generator, lights, propane heaters, shelves, and entry/exit ramps at the side and rear. FISH will pay a nominal rent for the duration of the pilot phase, expected to be one year.

Why go mobile?

Although we currently have eight food bank locations spread throughout Pierce County, there are still pockets of poverty and high need where there is no food bank access. Meanwhile high gas prices and recent cuts in public transportation are making it much more difficult for people in underserved areas of the county to get to a food bank.

Setting up and operating a fixed food bank, even with donated space, consumes a lot of donated dollars that



Sketches of the planned mobile food bank

could otherwise be used to purchase food. This mobile unit will have more storage and display capacity than some existing fixed food bank locations, but will be able to move to where the need is. It will be able to make both scheduled and special event stops, being at a different location every day and even multiple locations on the same day.

Like our existing food banks, the mobile food bank will operate on a walk-in, self-service model. Individuals will get a small shopping cart inside the trailer, walk down the center aisle, and select food from the shelving units on either side, just as they do at our fixed food bank locations.

The first mobile food bank site will be Northeast Elementary School. The school's principal approached FISH some time ago about starting a food bank in the neighborhood. NE Tacoma is one of the county's underserved areas, where there is high need but no food bank access. The closest food bank is just across the county line in Federal Way, but it serves primarily King County residents. Pierce County residents aren't eligible to receive federal commodity food there, and the nearest Pierce County food bank is eight miles away.

We plan to launch the mobile food bank as soon as the outfitting of the mobile unit is complete, expected by October. We'll begin with a weekly visit to Northeast Elementary School, where we are currently surveying prospective clients to determine the best day and time to serve the most families. We're also talking with other potential partners to add more sites to the mobile food bank schedule.

Director's Corner

Dear Friends:

Lately I have been reflecting back on my childhood and thinking how blessed I was to have had a supportive family when I was growing up. My parents divorced when I was very young. My mother had a college degree in political science but in the early 1960s there were not many jobs for a woman with two young children that could support a family, especially with a political science degree.

We were very fortunate that my grandmother lived down the street and my aunt lived just a few blocks away. Mom went back to school and got a teaching certificate. While she was in school and when she was student teaching, every morning my aunt picked up me and my sister and drove us to and from school. Most afternoons we would go to my grandmother's and play cards after school. Whenever my sister or I got sick grandmother would come and stay with us while mom taught school.

Many years later when I was in graduate school and couldn't afford to pay all of my rent my mother helped me out every month. When it came time for me to buy a house once again mom stepped in and helped with the down payment. Family was my safety net.

Many of our customers don't have family they can turn to for help. Many are still looking for jobs, many are couch surfing, many are seniors living on a fixed income, many have health issues that prevent them from working and many are volunteering at our food banks because they know it feels better to give than to receive.

Today, FISH Food Banks of Pierce County has be-

come the major safety net, a family of sorts, for thousands of our neighbors needing assistance. Through August of 2011 we have served over 286,000 people, a 21% increase over the same time last year.

Thanks to your generosity we have been able to extend our safety net to cover more under-served neighborhoods. In April we began a partnership with the Key Peninsula Lutheran Food Bank. Together we are able to provide more nutritious food to an increasing number of people in need. As you see in our lead story, in early October we will launch Pierce County's first completely self-contained mobile food bank, one of only a few in the country. This mobile food bank will travel each day to a different part of the county serving communities in need without the presence of a local food bank.

Whether you have volunteered, donated food or contributed money, you have helped provide this safety net for our community. You are providing nutritious food so children can go to school with a full stomach, so seniors won't become frail because they don't have enough to eat and so that thousands can continue to stay in their homes and pay their rent and utility bills because of their reduced food budget.

Thank you for helping provide this safety net to your neighbors in need.

Sincerely,



Beth Elliott
Executive Director

Thinking about a food drive?

Nearly all of the food that we distribute comes to us from donations. You can help fill our shelves by planning a food drive in your school, workplace, congregation or organization.

It's easy, fun and rewarding. We can provide collection bins if you need them, and arrange to pick up the donated food. Contact our administrative office at 253-383-3164 or info@fishfoodbanks.org.

We also have plenty of tips and suggestions to make your food drive a success. See our website at www.fishfoodbanks.org to download our food drive kit.

If you choose to collect funds instead of food, don't forget that for every dollar donated, FISH can distribute seven dollars worth of food.

Want to learn more about FISH Food Banks?

FISH Food Banks' staff and board members are available to speak with your organization, school, business or congregation. If you would like to learn more about the work that we do feeding hungry people across Pierce County, or how you can help, please email us at info@fishfoodbanks.org or call our administrative office at 253-383-3164.



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of Pierce County

*FISH Food Banks of Pierce County is
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Special Thanks to:

- The **Proctor Art Gallery** and the **Proctor Farmers' Market**, who partnered once again to present the third annual Proctor Art-a-Thon, raising more than \$1,400 to provide fresh produce for NW Tacoma FISH. Thanks also to **Proctor Farmers' Market vendors**, who have donated over 3,000 pounds of fruit and produce this season.
- Our friends at **Maurice the Fish Records** and **Sweatbox Entertainment**, who raised more than \$4,000 through the fourth annual FISH Food Benefit Concert in June at The Swiss Pub.
- **Curves at Westgate**, whose annual food drive brought in more than 5,000 pounds of food.
- **Orchard & Vine Community Garden**, **Junett Community Garden** and **Point Defiance Elementary Community Gardens**, who have donated hundreds of pounds of produce, picked fresh and brought to the food bank the same day.
- **Harmony Health**, who held a motorcycle ride fundraiser for Edgewood Community FISH.
- John Loesch at the **Neighborhood Market**, who donated over 2,200 pounds of food plus many needed non-grocery items as the store closed to make way for the new Tacoma Food Co-Op.
- **Harland Clarke** and **Milton Key Bank**, whose volunteers came out to clean at Edgewood FISH.
- **Edgewood and Milton Police Departments**, **Lemay Recycling**, **Edgewood Boy Scouts**, and **Albertsons**, who pooled their efforts in their 3rd Annual Free Shredding Event and Canned Food Drive.
- The **Tacoma Northwestern Model Railroad Club**, who donated \$2800 from the proceeds of their annual swap meet.

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