



# Food for Thought

3518 SW Genesee Street, Seattle, WA 98126

Spring 2002

(206) 932-9023

## Message from the President

*Christi Sifri-Steele*

It is the Saturday after our March "in like a lion" snow storm. I have just completed a food drive with some sophomore students outside one of our generous Thriftway stores. The students conducted the food drive, packed the food up and took it to the food bank where they sorted it and shelved it. Before they went home for the evening we had a closing discussion about their day of giving. Many of the students stated that they were amazed at the generosity of the people of West Seattle. Boy, did they hit the nail on the head!

The residents of West Seattle are an incredibly generous people. That is how the West Seattle Food Bank is able to serve over 2000 families each month with only two paid staff. The contributions of West Seattle residents are extensive, and as diverse as the community; 60 to 70 volunteers work on the front lines each month to help their neighbors in need, local businesses donate either materials (i.e. copier paper, office supplies, letterhead, van maintenance, etc.) or goods (i.e. bread, bagels, meat, vegetables, etc.) to the food bank on a daily basis and help to stretch our resources that much farther, the residents at large donate food, money, and Thriftway receipts continually throughout the year.

As I reflect on the day and the generosity I have seen over the months, I am still overwhelmed at all that the community has given to the food bank. I sit grinning as I recall one of the students saying, "We raised 1100 pounds of food [during the food drive]. That is not bad for just three hours of my time. It didn't seem too much to ask to make such a big difference." Clearly her experience with a strong caring community and all the good that can be achieved has taught her an incredible life lesson. I believe I can speak for the entire staff and Board of Directors of the West Seattle Food Bank when I say that we truly feel that the West Seattle Community is there for us...so that we can be there for the West Seattle Community.

*"Without a sense of caring, there can be no sense of community."*

*-Anthony J. D'Angelo*

## Volunteer Spotlight

The West Seattle Food Bank is a great place to volunteer, just ask Jerri Quinn! She's one of our longest-standing volunteers, having started with the Food Bank twenty years ago, in 1982. She's seen five executive directors and worked in four different locations.

When she started, the Food Bank was on Myrtle St., in High Point. It later moved to a location on California Avenue, then to Morgan St. and, finally, to our current location at 3518 SW Genesee St.

She started volunteering because, as she put it, she "wanted to get out of the house." A cousin suggested the Food Bank and Jerri started soon after, volunteering once a week. She recalls that the number of volunteers then was about the same as it is now, around 50. Then, as now, much of the food came through the generosity of local food stores. However, over the years the community has increased its support so both the quality and quantity of food provided to families has increased. As for her responsibilities, she's done just about everything but deliver and manage the place. She has bagged bulk foods, stocked the shelves and worked the line.

When asked what she enjoys about volunteering at the Food Bank her answer is similar to that of many other volunteers: the people. She truly enjoys the clients and the other volunteers, sharing stories with them, learning about their lives. She remembers an incident that brings a smile to her face. One time someone left a chocolate cake on a stool. Not noticing it, Jerri sat right on top of it! To make matters worse, she was wearing white pants and when she tried to wipe off the damage, well, you can imagine what it looked like!

Jerri is aware that we have purchased property near 35th and Morgan and that we plan to construct our own building there. When asked what she thought about the project, she had a one word response: "Wonderful!" And then Jerri, who has no plans to stop volunteering, will have come full cycle, from High Point in 1982 back to High Point in 2005.



## Wish List

- ◆ Diapers
- ◆ Baby formula
- ◆ Children's books
- ◆ Paper & plastic bags
- ◆ Protein items
- ◆ Ensure
- ◆ Pet food
- ◆ Soap & toiletry items
- ◆ Copier paper

## Mission Statement

West Seattle Food Bank is committed to eliminating hunger in our area.

We do this by:

1. Securing and distributing quality nutritious food to clients
2. Educating clients about good nutrition
3. Increasing public awareness of hunger in our community
4. Coordinating community services for clients
5. Assuring continuity of services to clients through a convenient, accessible location.

## Leftovers

For **January** your West Seattle Food Bank served 2,545 households and 8,856 individuals, distributing 50,750 pounds of food. For **February** 2,129 households and 6,766 individuals were served, distributing 52,750 pounds of food... **Volunteers** logged over 788 hours in January and 526 hours in February picking up food, packaging bulk foods, distributing, and all the other things they do to keep things running smoothly. There was an increase of 734 families served in January and February 2002 over 2001... The WSFB truly appreciates all of our supporters. Some organizations that have provided financial support in the past few months include: Admiral Thriftway, Junction Hardware, Olympic Heights Club, Rainier Investment Management, Seattle Auto Air Conditioning, West Seattle Junction Association, West Seattle Recycling, and West Seattle Thriftway... A special thanks to **Holy Rosary School** for donations from their annual Christmas Tree sale and **Sanislo Elementary School** for their Valentines piggy bank donations... Newsletter printing donated by **Liberty Bell Printing, Inc.**...Don't throw away your West Seattle or Admiral Thriftway receipts. Bring them or mail them to us. We can redeem them for 1% of the pre-tax total...Good news, bad news and we'll start with the bad. Tina Litkie, our Operations Manager, is leaving us to go back to school. Tina joined us in March of 2000 after spending time in Guatemala. Her ability to speak to our Spanish-speaking clients was a big asset. She will be greatly missed. And now the good news. We are fortunate to have found an excellent replacement! Gretchen Severson has studied food distribution at The Evergreen State College and comes to us after spending time in Ecuador. Gretchen, also, can communicate with those who speak Spanish.

## Board of Directors

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## Staff

Frances Yeatts  
*Executive Director*

Gretchen Severson  
*Manager of Operations*

Debby Gardner  
*Newsletter*

## Food Bank Hours:

Monday: 9 a.m. -3 p.m.

Tuesday: 9 a.m. -3 p.m.

Wednesday: 9 a.m. -7 p.m.

Thursday: 9 a.m. -3 p.m.

Friday: 9 a.m. -3 p.m.

or by appointment



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