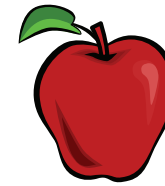


UNIVERSITY DISTRICT SERVICE LEAGUE
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FOOD FOR THOUGHT

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE UNIVERSITY DISTRICT FOOD BANK

AUTUMN 2011

Food Bank and Eckstein Middle School Partner on Backpack Program

This fall we have partnered with Eckstein Middle School to prepare backpacks of weekend food for approximately 15 students.

A group of parents initiated this program and the University District Food Bank is helping to purchase and store food each week. A volunteer comes to pick up the food each Friday morning and then another group of Eckstein parents assembles each of the bags before children come to pick them up in the afternoon.

The participation level of Eckstein parents is impressive and their motivation has gotten the program off to a strong start.



ANNE HUR PHOTOS

Bidding was hot and heavy during the auction.

Take a Bite Out of Hunger Raises Record Amount

Oompah band music, braised brisket and a spirit of fun permeated the air at the 16th annual Take a Bite Out of Hunger auction benefiting the University District Food Bank on October 1.

Thanks to the generosity of attendees, the Oktoberfest-themed event raised a record \$125,000 for the Food Bank!

The Fund-A-Need: Stock Our Shelves, Fill Our Freezer auction item was one of many highlights on the evening generating, \$28,625 for our food purchasing budget.

The Dessert Dash organized by



CONTINUED ON PAGE 5 The dessert dash was tempting!

New Home Delivery Coordinator Begins Work

By Jessica Wright

I am grateful to have this opportunity to introduce myself to the University District Food Bank community. On August 16

I began my one-year commitment to the Food Bank as the Home Delivery Coordinator.



I am serving this year through the Mennonite Voluntary Service program and in addition to running and expanding the Home Delivery program, I'll also be finding ways to connect our customers to benefits assistance programs through the new online portal "Washington Connection."

I come from a very small town in northwest Ohio. I graduated in 2007 from Bluffton University, a Mennonite college very close to my hometown, with a degree in Music Education. Upon graduation I worked as a Residence Hall

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5

The University District Food Bank assists low-income individuals residing within zip codes 98102, 98103, 98105, 98112, 98115, and 98125.

Food for Thought is published quarterly by the University District Food Bank for our volunteers, donors, and public at large.

The University District Food Bank is a program of the University District Service League, a registered 501 (c) (3).

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Join our Online Community

Get the latest updates and information about the Food Bank by joining our online community. It's a great way to connect with other donors and learn about upcoming opportunities at the Food Bank. Become a fan of the Food Bank on Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/UDistrictFoodBank>

Catch the latest Food Bank happenings on Twitter.com: @udistfoodbank

Letter From The Director

Dear Friends:

I know we've been quiet on the newsletter end for a while now. Trust me, our lack of communication in no way reflects a lack of activity. Quite the opposite really. As you'll read in the articles in this newsletter, we've created new programs to respond to unmet needs in our community. And we've branched out our communications to take advantage of social media as a vehicle to promote events and share news. But we've remained focused on our core mission: Meeting the food needs of our neighbors.

For decades, we've excelled at running a bricks-and-mortar food bank. Despite our small size, we've made healthy food choices available to all who walked in our doors. In the last year, we've introduced exciting new ways and developed new partnerships to meet homebound seniors, severely disabled adults and school-age kids where they are and deliver them nutritious food. These populations, most at risk from poor nourishment, now receive the food they need every week to stay healthy, active and alert.

Plus, through a partnership with WithinReach, our trained volunteers will begin food stamp outreach on a very regular basis using an online benefits portal. Through this outreach, we'll have the opportunity to connect our customers to important benefits that can help individuals and families meet their basic needs each month.

While we haven't used a printed newsletter to share this news, I invite each of you to become connected to the food bank electronically. We email information out about community events we participate in and about our fundraisers. Send Paul an email (paul@udistrictfoodbank.org) and let him know you want to be added to this list. Don't worry, we don't share your email address and won't send you too much email. Plus, "like" us on Facebook and/or follow us on Twitter. On those services we share moments in the food bank day, announce important and time sensitive news, note advocacy opportunities, and share relevant hunger and poverty related articles and research. I don't think you'll be disappointed; you might even be pleasantly surprised.

Through all this, we've stayed focused on our core mission. As 2011 stands to be the busiest year in our history, your ongoing support has been critical to keeping our community well nourished. We've remained a valuable resource for our neighbors in need. I hope you'll remain connected with us in 2012 as we explore other ways to meet the needs of our community.

In peace,
Joe



Auction attendees learned about Food Bank

FROM PAGE 1

former Board President Carol Cabe raised a phenomenal \$12,015.

Holland America's 10-day cruise garnered the most money for an individual item: \$4,100.

In addition to guests going home with great items attendees also left with a better knowledge of the Food Bank and its programs. The auction video created by Luuvu Hoang spotlighted our Home Delivery program as well as the positive impact the Food Bank and, in turn, donors have on the community. You can view Luuvu's five-minute video on our website at www.udistrictfoodbank.org.

Photos from the event can be viewed on Annehur.com. Click on "Customer login" and use "food" as the password to the Food Bank's Gallery.

Thanks to all who helped make the event a success. We are grateful for your support!



ANNE HUR PHOTOS

Checking out items in the silent auction.

Home Delivery Builds on Successful First Year

FROM PAGE 1

Director and six months later begin working in the Bluffton Office of Admissions as their Campus Visit Coordinator.

After I decided to enter Mennonite Voluntary Service, I left Bluffton in May 2011 to move to eastern Ohio and worked in the box office for the Ohio Light Opera during their summer festival season. The Voluntary Service term then began in August and I arrived in Seattle for the first time ever on August 13.

It has been a whirlwind of wonderful experiences since I moved to Seattle and began working at the University District Food Bank. Last year's Mennonite Volunteer, Evan Miller, began the

Home Delivery program for homebound customers in need of food and really made it an easy transition for me.

On Wednesday, Nov. 2, 2011, we marked the program's one-year anniversary and also logged our 500th delivery. One year ago, Evan and his first volunteer driver, Pat, drove a total of 3.4 miles in 45 minutes to deliver to our first two customers. One year later we have three routes serving 21 current customers (we have had 26 total customers) that drive an average of 30 miles each week. More people are on the waiting list for this service, so if you have some extra time and a car, we'd love to have you volunteer!

There are so many other

incredible things about being in Seattle and working where I do, but I feel most privileged for the opportunity to learn from and serve alongside my coworkers and the other volunteers. It has been overwhelming at times to think of the great need in our city, and then see everyone band together with their time, talents, and resources to try in the best way to meet that need. Attending the auction in October was not only a fun thing for me to do, but a very humbling opportunity to meet a lot of generous people and see them in action.

I look forward to the rest of my time at the University District Food Bank and hope for future opportunities to meet you.