Record year for Food Bank auction!

There were lots of great items to bid on in the Silent Auction.

THANK YOU to all of our supporters and volunteers who made the 28th annual “Take a Bite Out of Hunger” benefit auction a record year!

We raised $406,000 including sponsorships, ticket sales, item sales and Fund-A-Need, which raised $240,000 towards our $1.2 million fiscal year food budget.

This is a victory and puts us on a solid path as we look toward our food budget next year. But even with the amount raised it’s all relative to our looming food purchasing.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

Meet our Food Bank founders

As many of you know, the Food Bank has been celebrating 40 years in 2023. We’re so proud to have filled a void in the community and been able to feed our friends and neighbors in Northeast Seattle for four decades. You make it possible day-to-day for us to continue our work.

But we truly would not be here without three very special people who were the engine that made the University District Food Bank possible in 1983:

Patty Whisler – co-founder and community organizer
Dick Cunningham – co-founder and pastor at University Christian Church
Trish Twomey – first executive director

Read on for their reflections about the beginning and how they came to launch the University District Food Bank in 1983! (Interviews have been edited for length. Full interviews at www.udistrictfoodbank.org/udfb-blog/.)

► Patty Whisler
How did you get involved with the Food Bank?
The timing was just remarkable. I can’t tell you what a glorious process it was

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3
Letter From The Director

Dear Friends,

I’m writing you today to tell you about a significant change in one of our key partnerships.

Northwest Harvest has unilaterally decided to remove us as a food distribution partner by the end of 2024. While we will remain a member of the Northwest Harvest network and will collaborate with them on policy advocacy toward our shared goal of ending hunger, University District Food Bank is one of 30 agencies statewide and one of four in Seattle to be “graduated” from receiving food from them. Northwest Harvest has taken this decision in order to focus their food distribution on partners working “without the traditional resources offered in the food system.”

We are deeply disappointed by this decision. To build a hunger free community, we must move beyond a narrative of scarcity. This decision by Northwest Harvest only reinforces that narrative.

2024 will be a year of transition for us with Northwest Harvest. They will reduce their food support by 25% in January and by 50% in July. The loss of this food is significant. The loss of this food will be noticed on our shelves.

Last fiscal year, Northwest Harvest provided us nearly $400,000 worth of in-kind food donations. (Their share of contributions are indicated by the red area in the adjacent pie chart.) Replacing this will be difficult, but replacing this will be essential. We remain busier than ever at our food pantries, we’ve seen the closure of the U-District Target (a food donation partner), we’ve added two schools to our Packs for Kids program, and our grab-and-go café stocked with ready to eat foods will open later this month.

Our commitment to building a hunger free Northeast Seattle remains unchanged. We know that in our community, food justice can seem out of reach for so many. We will continue our work to reduce and eliminate the barriers to food access. We will continue to provide healthy, culturally familiar food daily.

In our current fiscal year, we have doubled our food purchasing. We will spend $1.25M buying food and hygiene items to supplement our donations. This increase in purchasing realistically only helps us tread water. Through September, we were 47% busier than at this same point last year. We anticipate remaining at least this busy into 2024.

As you consider your end of year giving and make plans for 2024, please include University District Food Bank in your plans. Your investment locally has the biggest impact on the lives of our neighbors. Your investment helps us build a hunger free Northeast Seattle. Your investment in our community matters.

In peace,

Joe
Founders: Where would they get the food?

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

to set up. Everything just fell into place and everyone wanted to help. The U District was filled with people who had no homes, no food, nowhere to go and we all came together to make the food bank happen.

Dick Cunningham was instrumental in getting the churches behind it and it felt like Trish Twomey appeared out of the blue and was so phenomenal, as was the University Christian Church community. Everyone should have an experience like this in their lifetime.

What was the biggest challenge to overcome in the beginning?

We didn’t have any competition in the area, and everybody got right in there and did a wonderful job of helping. But in the beginning, initially, it was hard to get the space donated, but then University Christian Church stepped up and we were all so grateful.

What is your fondest memory of your time volunteering Food Bank?

The food drives that Trish organized. One time in particular, I remember her in the back of the truck putting everything together and surrounded by supplies. She had a huge smile on her face even though it was a lot of work. That is a memory I love.

Any other thoughts or memories you’d like our community to know?

The thing that made it go was that everyone sensed a greater need and the city was so helpful. People learned to trust each other and that was a wonderful thing to see grow as we headed into the next decade of community planning. Residents, businesses, faith community all working together made it far better. It’s one thing we did that was a big success because we all came together.

This trust grew out of a common goal and it’s what we need now to bring everyone together.

Dick Cunningham

How long were you a pastor at University Christian Church?

Eighteen years. I managed education and social justice, which led to the Food Bank.

Was there a certain moment or series of events that lead you to co-found the Food Bank?

First thing is the dynamic of the members of the church, very progressive, and cared about what they did in the world. The senior pastor and my colleague, James Stockdale, was an advocate for the church being relevant to the broader University District community.

What was it like gathering the community together in the early days to donate or volunteer?

We had a space in the basement that used to be the church boiler room built in the early 1900s, so we said let’s use this space. It had an outside entrance and alley access. People were very willing to engage in it and volunteer.

What was the biggest challenge to overcome in the beginning?

Where are we going to get the food from? The Church Council of Greater Seattle and the Washington Association of Churches operated out of our church. Boeing had had some bad days and people in the church rallied around that and realized in this country how can we let people go hungry? So it was engrained in our community already. Then Trish set up food drives at various churches and grocery stores and at the UW campus.

What’s your proudest achievement during those years?

The church responded to the needs of people in the community, and that’s my vision of what the church ought to be doing. Our church was concerned about what was happening today and how can we could help it. There was a line around the block at the Food Bank and you couldn’t ignore it. The community saw the need and stepped up to help. The hunger issue is one that is very subtle because who wants to admit that they are hungry in a country with so much food?

Any other thoughts or memories you’d like our community to know?

Trish Twomey was the first executive director and was the most

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7
Thanks for helping us beat our auction goal!

Auction Sponsors

**Presenting Sponsor**
Amerigroup
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WSECU
Shook Hardy & Bacon
KeyBank

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Seattle Green Earth Cleaning

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Leah Ball
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Arra Ebersten
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**In-Kind Donors**
Cameron Catering
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Republic of Cider
Rotie Cellars

**Audio**
Jak McKool

**Graphics**
Curt Milton

Auction sets record for donations

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1
ning budget which has almost quadrupled in the last 3 years!

Please continue to keep us in mind for donation drives and end of year giving as we head into the holiday season. We can do so much good for the community when we all come together!

THANK YOU:

Volunteers — You made this all possible with your hard work and dedication to set up, run the event, and take down/clean up. We are so grateful!

Auction Item Donors — We received 370 donated items valued at $74,000!

Sponsors — We had a record number of sponsors this year. A huge thank you to all of them for supporting our work in the community!

Dessert Dash — Thank you to all of the incredible bakers who donated treats to our dessert dash! It was a beautiful table and we couldn’t be more appreciative of your sweet talents.

UW Foster School of Business — Their student volunteers worked every phase of the event: registration, silent and live auctions, and item check-out. They sold all the Best of Live raffle tickets as well as 60 bottles from our wine grab.
Thanks to our 2022 auction item donors!

2BAR Spirits
Abdul-Sattar Family
Abeja Winery
Acorn Street Shop
Act Theatre
Adamannt Cellars
Agua Verde Café & Paddle Club
Alaska Airlines
Alderbrook Resort & Spa
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Ben Steele and Melinda Iwen
Best Western Pioneer Square Hotel
Beverly Hinnucutt Studio
Bloomer Estates
Blue Star Café & Pub
Book Larder
Boon Boona Coffee
Cafe Allegro
Cafe Lago
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Cascina Spinasse & Artusi Bar
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Ellen & Al Yunker
Elliott Bay Book Company
Elana Wood-Fired Bagel Cafe
Ethan Stowell Restaurants
Eureka! Seattle’s University Village
Frank’s Oysterhouse & Champagne Parlor
Full Pull Wines
Georgetown Brewing Company
Georgetown Liquor Company
Ginny Conrow Porcelain Studio
Gregg’s Cycle
Guardian Cellars
Harold’s Lighting
Hawaiian Vanilla Company
Henry Art Gallery
Holiday Inn Express, Prosser
Holly & Jim Johnson
Holly Marklyn
Irene Holroyd
Isenhower Cellars
Jane & Peter Lamb
Jeanne McKinnon
Jeff Sconyers & Deb Godfrey
Jess and Mary Levine
JM Cellars
Jonathan & Marissa Cats
Judi Chapman
JuneBaby Restaurant
Karen Andersen
Karen Ko & Gary Johnson
Kathy Krogslund
Kelly and Ruby Grebinsky
Ken Johnson
Kevin White Winery
Kontos Cellars
Kristina & Kent Smith
Kuma Coffee
Laniakai Bath and Body
Latta Wines
Laura Collins & Greg Doerge
Lauren McCaffrey
Leah Ball
Leonetti Cellar
Letterpress Distilling
LetThemEatSoap.com
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Macrina Bakery & Cafe
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Mayflower Park Hotel
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Mojojo Latin American Restaurant
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Night Light Nails Salon
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Seattle Wine Storage
Serafina
Shanelle Donaldson
Shirley Towner
Sholdt Jewelry Design
Sleight of Hand Cellars
Starbucks
Stoneburner
Suenos de Salsa
Suncadia Resort
Susan Williams & Dick Conway
Swansons Nursery
Taco Time NW Home Office
Tacoma Art Museum
Ted Hunter
Tessa Matthey & Peter Durkee
The Burke Museum of Natural History and Culture
The College Inn Pub
The Essential Baking Company
The Herbfarm Restaurant
The Pantry
The Pastry Project
The SweetSide
Theo Chocolate
Third Place Books – Ravenna
Thomas Dentistry
Three Sacks Full
Thurston Wolfe Winery
Tilth Alliance
Tom Douglas and Company
Total Wine & More
Tracy Wilking
Tranche Estate
Trophy Cupcakes
Tropical Flowers & Bouquets of Hawaii
Tutta Bella Neapolitan Pizzeria
University District Food Bank Board of Directors
University of Washington School of Drama
View Ridge PCC
Village Theatre
Westland Distillery
Wing Luke Museum
Woodland Park Zoo
Woodward Canyon Winery
Zeeks Pizza
Meet Abby, our Satellite Pantry Coordinator! They work tirelessly each week to make sure our North Seattle College and Magnuson Park pantries are stocked and staffed. These pantries are a vital resource to those neighborhoods and expands our reach further in the community.

All About Abby!

**Hometown:** Albuquerque, NM  
**First concert:** New York Philharmonic?  
**Coffee or Tea:** Coffee for sure, but I love a good London Fog.  
**Favorite Pizza Topping/s:** Can’t go wrong with Margherita.  
**Favorite Place to take out-of-towners in Seattle:** The Bainbridge Island ferry  

**What is your school and work background?**  
I graduated from undergraduate at Whitman College in 2021 with a degree in music, and have worked with symphonies and music nonprofits in Washington and Albuquerque, New Mexico, as well as canvassing for Environment New Mexico and working at a Walla Walla Valley winery.

**When did you start at University District Food Bank?**  
I started in October of 2022 through Americorps and recently became hired on as a full-time staff member.

**What is your role within the organization?**  
I coordinate our two satellite pantries, at North Seattle College and Magnuson Park. These pantries allow us to feed more people in our community and those who can’t make it to our U District location.

**What is the most fulfilling aspect of your work?**  
The most fulfilling aspect of my work is getting to see how people care for their community and being a part of this wonderful community!

**What would you like our community to know about the Food Bank?**  
Since I started at the food bank a year ago, the number of people I serve at our satellite pantries has grown markedly, and we need more support than ever. But I also want to take a minute to thank all our volunteers and donors from the bottom of my heart. There is absolutely no way I could do my job without my weekly volunteers at both pantries and at the main food bank, and I am so grateful!
Contiunued from Page 3

valuable employee that I have ever
worked with. She was an excellent
person to grasp the concept and
move it forward.

Patty is a gem. She was phe-
omenal at bringing people to-
gether and organizing. These are
two powerful women who need to
be noted for their work in helping
other people.

► Trish Twomey
What years were you Executive
Director of the UDFB?

May of 1983 until summer
1993, about 10 years.

How did you get involved?

I was working at University
Christian Church running the con-
gregation meal plan and every
month, Patty Whisler, who
worked for the City of Seattle,
held meetings with all service
providers in the neighborhood.
The closest food bank at the time
was in Fremont and there was a
growing need in northeast Seattle.
So Patty started looking around at
different churches and locations to
operate out of. The University
Christian Church was so large,
they offered their basement space
and it just started to grow organi-
cally from there.

What was it like gathering the
community together in the early
days to donate or volunteer?

Patty led this charge. She was a
great community leader. She
pulled together a board of direc-
tors with people from local
churches, clubs, the UW and
more. It was amazing to see the
community come together. We’d
get food from Food Lifeline and
NW Harvest and were able to
start feeding the neighborhood.

How many families a week did
you serve?

We were busy right away and
quickly became one of the busier
locations in the city. KING5
News was there the first day we
opened and we started serving
maybe a couple hundred families
a week. It grew later to 600 fam-
ilies.

What was the biggest challenge
to overcome in the beginning?

The biggest challenge in the
early days was getting enough
food. I would often drive to NW
Harvest to get more food because
we were having a hard time keep-
ing up with demand. About a year
or two in we received funding
from the City of Seattle. We got
donations from local businesses in
the neighborhood like Safeco In-
surance and many others. We had
moments of scarcity and then the
money or food would appear and
always worked out.

We started running a big cam-
pus food drive with all depart-
ments at UW, which was a huge
amount of food. And the more
people learned about what we
were doing, donors would send in
checks, service clubs were sending
money. I don’t remember being
under-resourced after those first
months.

How has food insecurity
changed in Seattle over the last
40 years?

It’s kind of the same story but in
a different time. In the ’80s we
were seeing a lot of refugees from
the former Soviet Union, and we’re
still seeing this and serving a large
refugee population in our state.

There’s a lot more attention
paid to this issue now and new
funding to support it. And, of
course, the scale of the food banks
now, with all staff members and
larger shopping spaces, is much
improved.

What is your fondest memory of
your time as executive director?

It was always there to help peo-
ple. I feel like we surprised people
and were there to help them. Peo-
ple who came after hours to the
church to get food, and I was
happy to help them. People were
always surprised and happy that
we answered the phone, we really
wanted to help people, we had re-
sources and lots of food and al-
ways did what we could.

We are proud to support the
University District Food Bank
and the 2023 “Take a Bite Out
of Hunger” Benefit Auction.

Grateful for your mission to end hunger in
Northeast Seattle.

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Turkey Trot to benefit Food Bank

Join in the fun at the 8th Annual Montlake Community Club 5K Turkey Trot and Kids Run on Thanksgiving Day, Thursday, November 23!

All of proceeds from the event benefit the University District Food Bank. Sign up now to enjoy the incredible community spirit of Montlake’s annual tradition together. Run or walk and invite neighbors, friends, and family to join you.

Register today at montlake.net. If you’re not interested in running or walking but want to help, we’re looking for volunteers! Use raceroster.com/events/2023/76354/montlake-turkey-trot/volunteer to sign up.

Support Holiday Gifts for Kids of the University District Food Bank

Starting the day after Thanksgiving, on Friday November 24, University Village will display its Winter Wishes trees filled with gift tags for local kids. Each tag corresponds to a local child’s holiday gift wish. You can shop for as many tags as you like. Then the U Village team and volunteers will wrap them and distribute to the children through organizations like ours.

Thanks for your generosity this season!

Volunteer with us this Holiday Season

We’re in our busy holiday season and can use your help! Volunteer at the University District Food Bank and enlist a partner or friend to join you.