Trip to Oz proves to be a big success at auction

The theme for the 20th annual “Take a Bite Out of Hunger” benefit auction, “There’s No Place Like Home,” resonated with attendees. There were plenty of Dorothys, Glinda the Good Witches and even a Tin Man or two in attendance. That said, event themes come and go. The one thing that stays constant for our main fundraising event is the generosity of our guests.

The Brettler Family Foundation, University District Kiwanis, Chris and Heather Mefford, and an anonymous donor got the night started by pledging a combined $70,000 1:1 match for the Fund-A-Need, with the match directed to our Fight Hunger, Build Hope Capital Campaign.

Spurred on by the match, the evening’s Fund-A-Need, designated to our annual $185,000 food budget, garnered a record amount — $71,650! We will use this money across all of our programs: Walk-In

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Letter From The Director

Dear Friends,

I am excited to share with you that less than $500,000 remains before we reach our capital campaign goal for our new food bank home. While we are by no means done fundraising – half a million dollars is still a lot of money – there is something quite special about reaching that milestone.

Our end goal finally seems achievable.

As a small non-profit, we knew when we started on our capital campaign four years ago that it would take a tremendous amount of work and a tremendous amount of community support in order to be successful. And it has been a great effort to get here.

Many folks have come together so far to lift us up to this point. Their time, their energy and their resources have helped us raise more than $3.1 million for the capital campaign, all the while continuing to support 1,100 families a week through our walk-in food bank and growing our home delivery and Packs for Kids programs. They have stretched themselves to help us invest in our community’s future while remaining equally concerned about our community today.

Early next year, we will ask you to help us stretch to meet our campaign goal. We know many of you already make generous annual gifts to ensure that our day-to-day work continues and that our shelves remain full of healthy food options. We need you to continue that support. However, we also need you to make a one-time stretch in your giving to help us build for our future.

Your stretch might be large or it might be small. It is most important that you are able to make that stretch because ultimately your one-time investment in our future makes your annual gifts in the future even more effective. Your one-time investment in our new home means you help us work in a facility that is purpose built to meet the needs of our community for decades to come.

Today, I ask that you share in our excitement of being so near our capital campaign goal. However, I hope you will also think about how you can help us stretch to reach it.

In peace,
Joe

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Free health screenings at the food bank

King County Public Health conducts free health screening and referral service the first Monday of the month in the food bank. We temporarily moved the bread rack to give nurse practitioner, Gail Rossi, the needed room to administer tests.
Thanks to our auction donors!

Act Theatre
Adamanth Cellars
Alaska Airlines
Alderbrook Resort & Spa
Alexander Valley Vineyards
Andy Dutton
Apollo Mopeds
Argosy Cruises
Atlantis Casino
Baer Winery
Bakery Nouveau
Bastyr University
Becky Selengut
Betsy and Doug Wheeler
Big Time Brewery
Bloomer Estates
Blue Man Group
Bounty Kitchen
Brian Clayton
Brooke Anderson
Brooks Sports, Inc.
Brother’s Catering Seattle
Burgemaster
Bush Gardens
Buzz McCollough
Caesars Entertainment
Cameron Catering
Canlis Restaurant
Cappy’s Boxing Gym
Carol Cabe
Carol Cabe and
Celia Donohue
Carol Cabe and Steve Mataya
Chambers Bay
Charlie Burdell and Ryan
Durkan
Chateau Ste. Michelle
Chris Dettmering
Cicchetti Kitchen & Bar
City People’s Garden Store
Clive Pushehouse
College Inn Pub
Cornicello Photography
Counterbalance Brewing
Coyles’s Bakeshop
Culinary Collective
Dan Whalen
David LeClaire
Deb Nelson
Dee Tutino
Delta Air Lines
Diamond Knot Craft Brewing
Dino Haak
Dunham Cellars
Edna Shim
Ellen Yunker and Paul Yunker
EMP Museum
Erica Norgaard
Essentia Baking
Executive Hotel Pacific
Eyes on Fremont
Flying Apron Cafe
Forrest-Pruzan Creative
Frank Blau Photography
Fred and Teri Andrew
Gale Lurie Pottery
Gene Juarez Salons & Spa at
University Village
George and Emily Ptasinski
Georgetown Brewing Company
Gilbert Cellars
Ginny Conrow
Porcelain Studio
Glass Distillery
Gnocchi Bar
Greg Doerge
grouparchitect
Guardian Cellars
Hallie Goertz
Hales Brewery
Harmon Brewery
Heavy Restaurant Group
Henry Art Gallery
Hildy Ko
Hilliard’s Brewery
Holland America
Holly and Jim Johnson
Hoodsport Winery
Hotel Deca
Hotel Lucia
Hotel Murano
Hotel Nexus
Ishenower Cellars
Ivar’s and Kidd Valley
Restaurants
Jane Lamb
Jean Mataya
Jeff Staples
Jennifer Everett
Jerry and Whitney
Neufeld-Kaiser
Jet City Improv
JM Personal Training
Joe Gruber
John Clark-Mahoney
John Harmeling
John Hushagen
Judith Bushnell Ceramics
Judy Chapman
Justin Marx
Kate Siegel
Kathy Krogslund
Karen Ko
Khadija
King County TV
Kiona Vineyards
and Winery
Kobuke Enterprises LLC
Kontos Cellars
Landmark Theatres
Leslie Kelly
Linda Rethke
Lowercase Brewing
Luc
Lunchbox Laboratory
Madison Park Bakery
Mannina Cellars
Maple Leaf Ace Hardware
Maria Hines,
Agrodolce Restaurant
Marilyn Gregory
Marx Foods
Mary Pat & Bryan Smith
McCarthy & Schiering Wine
Merchants, Inc.
McMenamins
Melinda Wells
Mighty-O Donuts
Misha Berson
Molly Moon’s Homemade Ice
Cream
Naked City Brewery
& Taphouse
Nancy Bolin
Natalia Fior
Neighborhood Grills
New Deal Distillery
New Roots Organics
Night Light Nail Salon
Nordic Heritage Museum
North Seattle
Veterinary Clinic
Novelty Hill – Januik Winery
Old Sage, Brian McCracken
and Dana Tough
OOLA Distillery
Pacific Jazz Institute
Paint the Town
Parlor Live Comedy Club
Patty Porter
Paul Yunker
Paula and Dennis Skarr
Peha Promotions
Pete Pesco
Phillipa D. Photography
Pink’s Kitchen
PopulusXe Brewing
Poquitos
Pure Barre Seattle
Randy Silvey
Rebecca Zanatta
Redhook Brewery
Reininger Winery
Rick Wheeler
Ride Bicycles
Robert Adams
Ron Post
Royal Anne Hotel
Rudy’s Barbershop
RW Handyman
Ryan & Brooke Anderson
Salty’s Seafood Grills
Sand Point Country Club
Saviah Cellars
Schooner Exact Brewing
Schultzy’s Sausage
Sean Sessions
Seattle ReCreative
Seattle Seahawks
Seattle Sounders FC
Seattle Theatre Group
Seattle University Athletics
Seven Coffee Roasters Market
& Cafe
Seven Hills Winery
Sheraton Seattle Hotel
Shiga’s Imports
Shirley Towner
SIFF
Silver Cloud Inns
& Hotels
Silverwood Theme Park
Simply Desserts
Siobhan Ginnane
Slate Coffee Roasters
SomaNova Wellness
Sophie Kauffman
Stevens Pass Mountain Resort
Stoneway Hardware
Summerhill Pyramid Winery
Sun Liquor Distillery
Sun Mountain Lodge
Suncadia
Suzy Streater
Swansons Nursery
Syncline Winery
Tac Phoenix
Teatro ZinZanni
Ted Brown Music
Tennis Center Sand Point
Tertulia Cellars
The Burke Museum of Natural
History and Culture
The Comedy Underground
The Fairmont Olympic Hotel

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4
Thanks to our food donors

We use our refrigerated Sprinter Van to pick up food donations seven days a week in our community. A big thanks to our food donation partners:

Bartell Drugs (Roosevelt Square)
Bethany Lutheran Church
Christ Episcopal Church
Essential Bakery (Madison Park)
Fred Meyer (Ballard)
Grateful Bread Bakery and Café
Madison Park Bakery
Montlake Boulevard Market
New Roots Organics
Pasta & Company (University Village)
PCC (Greenlake Village)
PCC (Viewridge)
Picardo Farm
QFC (Broadway Market)
QFC (Wedgwood)
QFC (University Village)
Ravenna P-Patch
Roosevelt P-Patch
Safeway (University District, Wedgwood)
Sand Point Community Church
Shiga’s Garden
Starbucks (Greenlake, Olive Way, University Village, Wallingford)
Tall Grass Bakery
Trader Joe's (University District)
Trophy Cupcakes (Wallingford, University Village)
University District Farmers Market
University District P-Patch
University Heights P-Patch
University Presbyterian Church
Wedgwood Community Church
Whole Foods (Roosevelt Square)
Eastlake P-Patch
University of Washington Farm
University Lutheran Church

More thanks to our auction donors!

FROM PAGE 3
The Westin Seattle
Thurston Wolfe Winery
Tom Douglas Restaurants and Hot Stove Society
Trader Joes
Trish Twomey
Trophy Cupcakes
Tropical Flowers & Bouquets of Hawaii
Tutta Bella Neapolitan Pizzeria
Two Beer Brewing
University Book Store
University District Farmers Market
University District Food Bank Board of Directors
University of Washington Athletics
University of Washington School of Drama University of Washington Softball
University Village
Urban Float
Uwajimaya
Vacation Internationale
Vios Café & Pub at Third Place Books
Virginia Mason
Medi Spa
Visual Effects at Virginia Mason
Vitality Pilates
Waiting 4 Planes
Walla Walla Vintners
Westland Distillery
Westward
Whim W’Him
Whole Foods Roosevelt Square
Wild Rose Nursery
William Levine Fine Jewels, L.L.C.
Wing Luke Museum
Woodland Park Zoo
Yippie-Pie-Yay
Driving force behind Home Delivery? Volunteers!

Our Home Delivery program delivers food to 85 homebound adults once a week. The program, coordinated by Julia Fulk, our newest staff member from the Mennonite Volunteer Services, is volunteer driven – literally. Volunteer drivers and co-drivers (John Anthes, Garrett Rocks, Dick Moxon, Wendy Rogerson, Elizabeth Graham, Jan and Bill Corriston, Alyssa Rovner, Deb Godfrey, Laura Souyoultzis, Mary and Bruce Davis, and Ashley Fowler) deliver food each and every Wednesday. The program is a prime example of the importance of volunteers in doing the work that we do.

Will Ambrose

Will Ambrose has been on Home Delivery for three years. Will lives in low-income housing and has a limited budget to spend on food, in addition to medical problems that make it difficult for him to access a grocery store or food bank.

“The food I receive through Home Delivery has been really helpful in rounding out my weekly groceries, and has made a big difference in my diet.” He’s particularly noticed the increase of fresh, organic vegetables in his box these past few months, since the food bank started purchasing from Puget Sound Food Hub. “The extra produce has made me get creative with my cooking. Now I make a lot of soups and stews, and started putting greens in my smoothies.”

When I asked him how University District Food Bank has affected his life, he responded, “Home Delivery makes Wednesdays important. I focus on prepping and storing the food I receive, and then planning out how I’ll use items throughout the week.” Like many of our customers, Will is resourceful in finding recipes for some of the less glamorous vegetables. When he received kohlrabi in his box, he researched recipes and found simple, versatile ways to prepare it.

“Having food delivered has been a godsend,” he says.

Randy Hollenberg

Randy Hollenberg has been on Home Delivery for about a year. Randy is a disabled veteran who moved to Seattle from New Orleans five years ago. Randy stays true to his Cajun heritage through his love of cooking. As a participant in Cooking Matters classes through Solid Ground, Randy taught his peers how to make seafood jambalaya and gumbo.

“The food bank has been a real blessing, not just for me, but for all of us receiving boxes,” he says. Randy especially enjoys the fresh fruits and vegetables we are able to provide him with each week, and added that the choices are always improving. “Being on Home Delivery has been a positive experience. I really appreciate the work the food bank has done.”

Meet Hannah, new Operations Assistant

Hannah Duffany is thrilled to have joined the University District Food Bank this winter as an operations assistant. Originally from Massachusetts, she feels right at home amongst the vibrant community and food, of course! Outside of driving the big van, Hannah is actively engaged in Seattle farmers markets, community agriculture projects and teaching children to garden.

She is excited about continuing on her West Coast adventure as the UDFB transitions into its new space!
Hello supporters and volunteers! My name is Julia Fulk and I have been working at the University District Food Bank for the last three months. I grew up on the East Coast in New Hampshire and went to college in the Midwest at Bluffton University in small town Bluffton, Ohio. After graduating this past May with a degree in Nutrition and Dietetics I thought I would give the Northwest a try so I moved out here to Seattle. I am working at the food bank through an organization called Mennonite Voluntary Service, which places volunteers in cities across the U.S. to live and work in their community. So far I love Seattle and have been enjoying the beautiful mountain views along with getting to know the city by taking bike rides and walking to parks on the sunny days.

Working at the food bank, I have been coordinating the Home Delivery and Packs For Kids programs. It has been great to see how the food bank supports these two programs and I am excited to be a part of it this year! I have particularly enjoyed being able to meet and get to know some of the Home Delivery clients while riding along on the deliveries. I have also enjoyed being able to work with all the wonderful volunteers here at the food bank. I am especially grateful for the volunteers that help deliver food for Home Delivery each week and for the parent and school volunteers who pickup food each week for Packs For Kids. Nothing the food bank does would be possible without the energy and willingness of all the staff and volunteers and I am happy to have this experience and work with such wonderful people!

Volunteer: Always a teacher

expressed that this was a difficult time for him to maintain a healthy weight. A friend noticed the weight loss and suggested visiting the Food Bank. Since then, he has had success maintaining a healthy weight and the fresh produce at the food bank allows him to keep up his healthy, active lifestyle.

Originally, from the Midwest, Santiago came to the Pacific Northwest from Arizona where he was majoring in Japanese Studies. Following the invitation of a friend to come up to “God’s Country,” for summer break, Santiago fell for Seattle’s mild temperatures and the possibility of year round running outdoors. Santiago returned for a second summer and worked for FIUTS as a tour guide and liaison for University of Washington Japanese international students. Although some of the students wanted to speak in English, he found it was easier to communicate in Japanese.

His adventurous spirit and knack for language and teaching led Santiago to work and study in the Dominican Republic, Taiwan, Singapore, Japan, Jamaica, Korea, Puerto Rico, Brazil, Mexico, Canada and the Philippines.

Truly a jack of all trades, Santiago recently made his debut in acting, performing as Demeter with Sound Theatre Company in “Jesus Moonwalks the Mississippi.” Food Bank staff and front desk volunteer, Brenda, had the opportunity to go. Santiago was fabulous in his role!

Santiago’s true love however is teaching and practicing Capoeira, a Martial Art that travelled to Brazil from South Africa through the slave trade. Traditionally, Santiago explained, when boys were 12 or 13 they had a dance off, or contest of movement, which translated as “the zebra dance.” The winner of this dance had his choice of a bride. The dance later became Capoeira (tall grass). He was taught that the enslaved Africans would set traps in the tall grass and use their movements and wiles to escape. There is deep history, physicality and spirituality to Capoeira which resonate deeply with Santiago.

Thank you, Santiago, for sharing your story with us. You are truly a gift to our community.

Records fall at annual auction

Food Bank, Packs For Kids, and Home Delivery. You can view the Fund-A-Need video on our website, udistrictfoodbank.org. Click the News & Event tab and then Videos to see the six minute film about the Food bank and the work that we do.

Auction chair Paula Skarr and her team did a great job of procuring a variety of auction items, ranging from a ceramic birdbath to theater tickets to “If/Then” with Idina Menzel. Top selling items included a Holland America 10-day cruise for $4750 and Delta Air Lines first class tickets plus a Kona condo stay for $4,600. The auction donors and sponsors are listed. Please thank them for their support of the Food bank by frequenting their businesses.