



Gig Harbor Peninsula FISH Food Bank & Community Services

Physical address: 4425 Burnham Drive, Gig Harbor, WA 98332

Mailing address: PO Box 154, Gig Harbor, WA 98335

www.ghpfish.org (253) 858-6179 Financial Aid (253) 851-8800

Great Things Are Happening

Good news! Washington State Rep. Michelle Caldier, working directly with GHP FISH volunteers, has come up with a \$150,000 matching state grant for our building project. It has passed the House and now awaits approval by the Senate. Of course we will need to raise another \$150,000 in order to take full advantage of the grant, but I am confident that we can do that. This is not the first time Michelle has assisted us. She is a long-time supporter of GHP FISH.

This is just one of the many great things that happened in the past few months. Thanks to our more than 200 volunteers and to our generous community, we provided assistance to more of our neighbors than ever. Last fiscal year, 4,226 families received enough food to provide at least 207,942 meals. Our local stores remain vital partners in making this possible. Additionally, generous financial support from local community members allowed us to purchase over \$89,000 in perishables and hygiene items. On the downside, in the last few months we have seen a growing number of people needing help, also the number of elderly needing assistance continues to increase.

A team of expert volunteers is currently working to determine the feasibility of building on the Hunt Street property that we received from Pierce Transit through the city. A number of permitting issues must be dealt with prior to moving ahead. The geography of the land and the fact that we are dealing with two parcels rather than one is complicating the situation. Hopefully, we will be able to resolve the problems in the near future.

Many thanks for all you are doing to help our neighbors.

Ron Coen, President, GHP FISH

Save the Date

Please join us at the table!

WHAT: Thank You Luncheon

WHERE: United Methodist Church, 7400 Pioneer Way
Gig Harbor, WA

WHEN: Tuesday, May 14th
At 12:00 PM

RSVP: (253) 858-6179 or
ghpfishfoodbank@gmail.com
No later than May 9th

**Soup, sandwiches, desserts,
beverages will be served.**

Upcoming Events

May 3-4

Food drive at Safeway

May 11

Letter Carrier Food Drive

May 14

Thank You Luncheon &
Annual Meeting

June 1

Maritime Gig Parade

June 8-9

Food drive at Safeway

Our Mission:

Neighbor helping neighbor in need with food and other assistance as they move toward self-sufficiency.

Every Food Donation Brings a Smile

You never know what you are going to discover when processing food drive donations. In addition to the staples of tuna, peanut butter, beans, pasta and such, occasional specialty items find their way to the "Misc. Items" and "Snack" shelves. From ketchup to clam sauce, and varieties of sweet and salty snacks, these less conventional selections provide our neighbors with an array of ingredients to work with and enjoy.



"Boiled peanuts!" was one customer's reaction when she saw the plain brown package. "I haven't seen those up here since I moved from the South."

"Girl Scout Cookies!!" shrieked (yes, shrieked) a teenager one afternoon. That put a big smile on her (and her mother's) face.

Community food drives, such as our recent "Stuff the Bus" and the upcoming Letter Carriers' *Stamp Out Hunger* event on Saturday, May 11, are essential to the success of GHP FISH's mission to provide food and other services to our neighbors in need as they move toward self-sufficiency. Providing a helping hand, gives those struggling a chance for success.

Support GHP FISH While You Shop

Last quarter GHP FISH received more than \$500 generated by customers shopping at Fred Meyer and/or Amazon Smile. It's easy to sign up for community support programs, which send a percentage of each qualifying dollar to the charity of your choice.

Fred Meyer Rewards cardholders can log in at fredmeyer.com and click on [Community Rewards](#) at the bottom of the home page, then link to Gig Harbor Peninsula FISH Food Bank. Fred Meyer shoppers raised \$274 for their neighbors in need last quarter.

Amazon donates 0.5% of the price of eligible purchases to your designated charity, raising \$237.52 last fall, and a total of \$824.56 over time. To set it up on your Amazon account, go to smile.amazon.com and select Gig Harbor Peninsula FISH, then place your orders from the Amazon Smile page.

Thrivent Insurance also donates according to customers' wishes. Call 1-800-847-4836 and ask for Thrivent Choice at the prompt, then ask for your Choice dollars to go to GHP FISH. Online, choose Direct My Thrivent Dollars from the My Thrivent tab at thrivent.com. Be alert for similar giving opportunities with other businesses, and for employer matching programs when you give.

“We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give”

— Winston Churchill



Volunteer Warehouse Manager Makes Every Dollar Stretch Further

While we are fortunate to have a community that consistently helps fill our shelves with food and grocery products, many folks prefer to give monetary gifts. GHP FISH knows the value of a dollar and with the task of feeding over 9,900 neighbors a year on a budget, the staff relies on Geoff, our warehouse manager, to make the most of every cent.

By working with the local grocery stores and taking advantage of weekly specials,

Geoff, a volunteer since 2014, purchases food and makes sure the shelves are stocked with a variety of nutritious options.

But his talents do much more than put food on the shelves. A retired distribution center manager, Geoff uses his understanding of the business to establish procedures that ensure our food bank runs efficiently and uses every inch of limited space effectively.

The expertise of our volunteers, retired and otherwise, allows 99% of expenses to be used to care for our clients. Making a dollar go further while maintaining a level of dignity and service to those in need is how GHP FISH has been providing aid to our community for over 43 years.

Schedule Your Tour Today!

See what is happening inside the double doors at GHP FISH by scheduling your tour today! Call (253) 858-6179 to schedule a tour of the facility for yourself and your friends. You'll see that we are so much more than a food bank!

GHP FISH Clients Served in 2018

Total people served: 9,902

Number of meals possible: 207,942

Financial assistance: \$84,101 Education aid: \$29,506



Gig Harbor Peninsula FISH
Food Bank & Community Services
PO Box 154
Gig Harbor, WA 98335

Inside

- Save the Date for Thank You Lunch & Annual Meeting
- Misc. and Snack items bring smiles
- Volunteer warehouse manager makes every grocery dollar count
- Schedule your tour today

GHP FISH volunteers thank everyone who has helped care for our neighbors in need. To remove your name from this mailing list, please call (253) 858-6179. **To receive a paperless version, send your email address to ghpFISHmedia@gmail.com**

Hours of Operation

Monday
9:30 AM – 3:30 PM
Tuesday – closed
Wednesday
9:30 AM – 6:00 PM
Thursday
9:30 AM – 6:00 PM
Friday
9:30 AM – 3:30 PM
Saturday/Sunday
Closed

Holidays Closed

President's Day
Memorial Day
Labor Day
Columbus Day
Veteran's Day
Thanksgiving
Christmas
New Year's Day