## FISH Tales



Serving indivduals in need with compassion, dignity and respect

## FISH Food Banks of Pierce County

621 Tacoma Ave. Š, Suite 202 Tacoma, WA 98402 253-383-3164

www.fishfoodbanks.org

#### Edgewood

Mountain View Lutheran Church 3505 122nd Ave. East Edgewood, 98372

#### Graham/South Hill

Holy Disciples Catholic Church 10425 187th St. East Puyallup, 98374

#### **Jackson Street**

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church 7419 South 12th St. Tacoma, 98465

#### Key Peninsula

Key Peninsula Lutheran Church 4213 Lackey Rd. KPN Lakebay, 98349

#### Lakes Area

United Methodist Church at Lakewood 6900 Steilacoom Blvd. SW, Lakewood, 98499

#### **Northwest FISH**

Mason United Methodist Church 2710 North Madison Tacoma, 98407

#### **Southeast FISH**

Lutheran Church of Christ the King 1704 East 85th St. Tacoma, 98445

#### FISH Mobile Food Bank

For current schedule, see www.fishfoodbanks.org.

# The Spring Rock 'n Roll FriendRaiser is coming!

It's time to dust off your boogie shoes! We had such a great time last year that we just had to do it again. So mark your calendar now and plan to join FISH Food Banks of Pierce County for our second annual Spring FriendRaiser!

In what is becoming a new tradition for FISH Food Banks, the Landmark Convention Center in Tacoma will be rocking on Saturday, April 13 as local favorites Daryl and the Diptones donate their time and musical talents to help us keep feeding Pierce County's hungry individuals and families.

Daryl and the Diptones are justly famous throughout the South Sound not only for their classic '60s and '70s rock and roll but also for their generosity in supporting local causes through their music.

Doors open at 6:30, and the music begins at 7:30. There will be a nohost bar, and food will be available for purchase. All attendees must be 21 or over. Tickets are \$25, and can be purchased online at fishfoodbanks.org or by calling our office at 253-383-3164.



Daryl and the Diptones kept toes tapping and the crowd dancing at the 2012 Spring FriendRaiser. The event raised more than \$20,000 to support FISH Food Banks.

This year's event chair is FISH board member Marianne Hilton. Together with members of the board's Marketing Committee, she is planning the evening as the board of directors' major fundraiser for the year. Their goal for the event is to raise enough funds to purchase two cargo containers of nutritious food. Last year's event raised more than \$20,000 to support food bank operations, and the committee hopes to raise at least \$30,000 this year.

As demand has increased at all of our food banks, strategic food purchases have become more and more essential to our operations, to supplement donated food and ensure that we are providing a nutritionally balanced food supply to our clients.

Through the support of our generous sponsors, all of the funds raised through this event will go directly to food purchases for our seven fixed food banks and our mobile food bank—and for every dollar we receive, we can distribute seven dollars' worth of nutritious food to our neighbors in need.

We are very grateful for the support of our major sponsors: Olympic Eagle Distributing, Union Bank and J.P. Work & Associates.

Special thanks also go to Minuteman Press Downtown Tacoma for printing our event posters.

## Volunteering helps teens prepare for the workplace

Students from Washington High School are learning real-life job skills by volunteering at Southeast FISH. The high school seniors are enrolled in a Community-Based Learning (CBL) program run by the Franklin Pierce School District.

CBL offers students ages 16 to 20 a small learning community in which they can experience authentic work opportunities to build their skills and develop workplace behaviors they need to be employable. While the students' personal circumstances vary, most have come to CBL because of obstacles that have affected their education.

CBL Coordinator Ora Johnson reports that the students "have made some terrific gains and improvement," citing one student who has learned to overcome her anger issues to work as part of a team and another whose volunteer work has helped him develop confidence and self-esteem. Thanks to Southeast FISH coordinator Jim Beaudoin and his volunteer team for supporting this valuable program!

### Concert will benefit FISH

The Fish are getting ready to rock for FISH! Save the date for the **6th Annual FISH Food Benefit Concert**, organized by our generous friends at Maurice the Fish Records. This year's show will be held on Sunday, June 2 from 3:00-7:00 p.m. at Louie G's, 5219 Pacific Hwy. S in Fife.



Rafael Tranquilino and Kim Archer rocked the crowd at the 2012 FISH Food Benefit.

The show will be sponsored by Maurice the Fish Records along with Sweat Box Entertainment and a new co-sponsor, Flat Hat Productions. The musical lineup is still being determined.

Along with lots of great music, there will be giveaways, a silent auction and more, with all proceeds benefiting FISH Food Banks. Louie G's is an all-ages venue, so families are welcome. For the latest news, see the website at www.mauricethefishrecords.net.

### FISH Food Banks welcomes new staff

In February, FISH welcomed Emily Happy as the organization's new Director of Development and Communications. Emily writes:



Emily Happy

It is my great pleasure to join the FISH Food Banks team! I look forward to getting to know all of you, and in the meantime, perhaps you'll allow me to share a bit about myself.

A Puget Sound native, I have a long history of working with non-profits, serving people in poverty, at-risk youth, recent ref-

ugees and immigrants, writing training curricula to integrate community partnerships into social service delivery systems such as child welfare and education, and assisting groups in increasing their capacity for positive change.

Most recently, I was employed by Franke Tobey Jones, working with senior residents and community members as Events & Activities Director. I was also Director of the Point Defiance-Ruston Senior Center for several years, Franke Tobey Jones' large community outreach program that serves primarily low- and fixed-income seniors.

For several years, I lived on the East Coast (I moved back at the beginning of last year's gorgeous summer), working as Community Relations Director for Miller Farms Family Markets, a family-owned supermarket in Enfield, Connecticut. There, I was responsible for public relations, local marketing, community outreach and engagement, staff development, forging new community relationships with legislators, local businesses and non-profits, and the inception and management of this large company.

I thoroughly enjoy serving the community. It gives my life purpose. I am an active Rotarian, former board member of the North Central Connecticut Chamber of Commerce, North Central Connecticut United Way, Washington State Association of Senior Centers, and Pierce County Chemical Dependency Advisory Board. But the accomplishments that made me most proud? Volunteer of the Year awards from both the Enfield Food Shelf food bank and Loaves & Fishes soup kitchen in Connecticut.

I am grateful for the opportunity to join FISH and contribute to this vital organization that serves so many individuals and families in need. Please feel free to reach out to me at any time at emilyhappy@fishfoodbanks.org.

## Mike Mowat to be honored for mobile food bank project

Congratulations to our very own board member and volunteer extraordinaire, Mike Mowat, who has been named one of five 2013 Washington State Jefferson Award winners by the Seattle CityClub. Mike was honored for his herculean efforts in making FISH's mobile food bank a reality.

Looking at the challenge of providing food to families living in areas where there is high need and no food bank access, Mike, a former trucker, conceived of the



Mike Mowat

mobile food bank project. He purchased a used moving van and converted it into the mobile unit that now makes weekly stops at five different locations, serving thousands of individuals each month.

Watch for Mike and the other Jefferson Award winners on KING5's *Evening Magazine* on Monday, March 18, and after the broadcast, vote for your favorite to represent Washington state at the National Jefferson Awards in Washington, D.C. in June. The National Nominee will be announced at an April 9 breakfast at the Bell Harbor International Conference Center.



Volunteer Mike Mowat demonstrates loading the FISH mobile food bank for the benefit of a TV crew from Evening Magazine.

"We know that a peaceful world cannot long exist, one-third rich and two-thirds hungry."

– Jimmy Carter

## A word from our president



Board President Sandy Roszman

ISH Food Banks of Pierce County has faced and met some huge challenges since the end of 2008 to the present time. Over these past four years, the number of clients served in our food banks has increased by 136%. The numbers have risen steadily each year until we now serve approximately one third of all food bank clients in Pierce County.

This is a major achievement that has only been possible be-

cause of the generosity of our supporters. As needs increased, so did the donations of food, money and grants. So many people opened their hearts and gave generously of their resources so their neighbors in need would not go hungry. It is amazing how many different donations have been received and how many different projects have been undertaken in order to support the hungry in Pierce County.

Many of the projects have been large and have received a great deal of publicity. Other efforts have been accomplished in small ways and have been done anonymously. Churches, Scout groups, schools, corporations, service clubs, foundations and individuals have all supported FISH and made it possible for our organization to continue to grow and provide nourishing food for those who would otherwise lack sufficient healthy food for their families. Every effort and every donation has made a difference in someone's life. And every effort and every donation is appreciated.

No one can predict the future or the trend of our economy in 2013. What is certain, based on the past, is that FISH will continue to do an outstanding job of serving those who are in need and it will happen because of the generosity of our supporters. Each of you is a blessing to the clients you have helped and we thank you for your support.

Sandy Roszman Board President, FISH Food Banks



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## In Brief:

- We are delighted to welcome two new members to the FISH Food Banks Board of Directors. Gary Olson, is a business and management consultant with 25+ years of experience managing large retail distribution centers and transportation fleets. He teaches warehousing and logistics at Tacoma Community College. Lynda Morley comes to us from Bank of America, where she currently serves as Consumer Market Manager for greater Tacoma and Olympia. Thank you both for your generous commitment to feeding hungry people here in Pierce County!
- Many, many thanks to all the wonderful schools, congregations, businesses and organizations that helped us with holiday food drives:
   Albertsons Thanksgiving Dinners • Anchor Physical Therapy • Arlington Elementary School • Arrow
  - Lumber Automated Systems of Tacoma Bethel High School Blockbuster Video Camber Health Partners Children's Therapy Comprehensive Clinical Development Department of Early Learning Downing Flomentary School DuPont Fire Dept. Edgewood City Hall File Plain School of Choice
  - Downing Elementary School DuPont Fire Dept. Edgewood City Hall Elk Plain School of Choice
  - Faith Family Church Ford Middle School KinderCare Learning Center Lombino Martino P.S. Mason Middle School Meeker Middle School New Hope Christian School Mountain View Elementary School North Harbor Physical Therapy Northwood Elementary School Pierce College Puyallup Praxair Distribution Inc. Silver Creek Retirement & Assisted Living South Hill Fred Meyer Spectrum Pension Consultants University Place Best Pet Grooming UPS Student Athletic Advisory Committee Star Center Steamers Seafood Café Tacoma Learning Center Topia Technology UPS Student Athletic Advisory Committee Barney Wagner Walker High School

We couldn't do our work without you!

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