
FISHline

News from GHP FISH Food Bank & Community Services



Spring 2022



The new building is nearing completion and will be ready this summer.

GHP FISH spring has sprung

Spring has always been a time for renewal, a brighter future and new growth. That certainly is the case for GHP FISH Food Bank this year. As with Mother Nature, the new growth sometimes happens in unexpected ways.

For instance, new volunteers who turn up at just the right moment, like the professional videographer who now helps tell our story in ways we never could have imagined; a team of grant writers who have been very successful; an IT expert who takes our computer system to a new level, and numerous other talented and dedicated volunteers who are intent on caring for our neighbors and helping them grow.

Report from Ron

Our new 10,000-square-foot food bank, now nearing completion, is a prime example of a brighter future. Moving into the new facility this summer will be the harvest of the many seeds planted by our Capital Campaign Committee and by generous individuals, churches and organizations who want our neighbors to have the resources to be healthy and grow.

This new facility is more than simply a nice building. It is the coming together of an entire community, including professionals like Washington

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Coming Up

There are many ways to get involved and celebrate with GHP FISH this summer. Watch your email, Facebook and the website (ghpfish.org) for details.

Maritime Festival: June 4

Watch for our FISHy parade entries, and stop by our information booth.

Move In: TBD

Many hands make light work. Pick a time on SignUpGenius.

Volunteer Luncheon & Annual Meeting: June 21

A special event to thank & honor our volunteers. See page 3.

Grand Opening: July 12

Public celebration and tours of our new facility.

The Beatniks: Aug. 9

FISH hosts a booth, raffle and hot dog stand at this popular Gig Harbor summer concert.

Want to volunteer? Email ghpvol@ghpfish.org or go online to [SignUpGenius](http://SignUpGenius.com).

Our mission: Neighbors helping neighbors in need with food and other assistance as they move toward self-sufficiency.

Student Aid helps keep teaching dream on track

By Kathy Cummings

Alisa Briscoe was a typical college student in her last two quarters at Western Washington University, working toward her dream of becoming a teacher. Everything was on track: her waitress job paid enough to take care of school expenses, gas, tolls; she had it covered, and just couldn't wait to begin her professional life.

Then along came the worldwide pandemic, and her dream hit a full stop.

The restaurant closed, and suddenly Alisa was out of work. She could no longer afford those books and transportation costs, but she wasn't ready to give up.

Her search for online resources pointed her to the Gig Harbor Peninsula FISH Food Bank and Community Services website. She scheduled a phone interview with the education aid counselor.

"I was nervous the first time I called," Alisa said. "But I was met

with the most kind, caring and knowledgeable volunteers. They showed me they would go above and beyond to keep me in school by providing textbooks, school supplies, and even refilling my gas tank during my student teaching."

Alisa graduated with a degree in Elementary Education and is working in what she calls her "field of dreams" as a teacher.

Alisa was proud to be featured on GHP FISH's Virtual Hard Hat Tour in early April. She wants to make sure other students who encounter difficult situations to know that their educations don't

Spring is full of hope and growth

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Patriot Construction, RGA Architects, the Gig Harbor City Council, our Washington State legislators and many others who are focused on making sure our neighbors have a safe, secure and respectful place to come for



Alisa Briscoe wants other students to know there's help at GHP FISH.

have to take a back seat and that GHP FISH is there to help.

Ed. note: During winter quarter GHP FISH helped 17 local students with their education costs and food needs. Three graduated in March, all with career goals of helping others.

assistance now and for generations to come.

The result of this spring awakening is more than just an organization expanding. It is lives being changed — like the young woman who lost her job due to COVID while in her final year of college and received assistance from FISH. As a result, she is now a teacher helping young school children grow. Read her story above.

Thanks for making a difference!
Ron Coen
Board President

Can you help with pick-ups in a pinch?

Want to make a difference but think your schedule is too unpredictable? We get it! Volunteers are urgently needed for occasional on-call store pick-up and delivery/unloading. Short, 1-2 day notice from our suppliers makes scheduling volunteers a challenge. Let us know if you can help on short notice: ghpfvol@gmail.com.



Watch party guests followed the Facebook Live virtual tour on the big screen, and emcee Betsy Cheney kept things moving.

The funding finish line is in sight



After less than two years and thanks to hundreds of generous donors, our Building the Future campaign is very close to reaching its goal of raising \$8 million to fund our new building and establish a \$500,000 endowment fund.

We celebrated a big milestone on April 2 when we launched the community phase of the campaign with a Facebook Live video tour of the new building and a watch party at Ocean5. Now we are less than \$150,000 away from reaching our \$8-million goal. With the finish line in sight, YOU can help put us over the top! It's easy to give, and every gift – no matter the size – will get us closer to our target.

Construction on our new facility will wrap up later this spring and we'll move in this summer, so NOW is the time to join your friends and neighbors who have already given to the Building the Future campaign. We invite you to make your gift online at www.ghpfish.org/newbuilding.html or send a check to GHP FISH, Building the Future, PO Box 154, Gig Harbor, WA, 98335. Thank you!

Keep the Safeway food drive going

In partnership with our wonderful local Safeway, GHP FISH Food Bank's monthly food drives help keep our shelves full and connect us with the public. On the first Friday and Saturday of each month, volunteers collect more than 1,000 pounds of food and \$800-3,000 in cash and checks donated by Safeway shoppers.

The current coordinator has been accepted into the University of Washington School of Medicine. We're proud and thrilled, but now need an individual or group to pick up her duties and keep the food drives going. This role requires the ability to lift 50 pounds, an active driver's license, desire to help our community, and effective communication with volunteers and store associates. If you'd like more information or know of a community member or organization that would be willing to help, please contact Leslie at ghp@lesliemp.com.

The Volunteer Luncheon is back

Please join us at noon on Tuesday, June 21 at the new facility to see, hear and share how your service is making a difference. Get a sneak peek at our new home and break bread with other volunteers. RSVP by June 6 at the food bank or the website (www.ghpfish.org).



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

Food Bank Location (no mail)
4425 Burnham Drive
Gig Harbor, WA 98335
(Coming Summer 2022)
4303 Burnham Drive
Gig Harbor, WA 98332

Contact us:
Office: (253) 858-6179
Financial Aid (253) 851-8800
ghpfishfoodbank@gmail.com

Catch fresh news in this FISHline

Mark your calendar for some big events

Read Ron's report on our bright new future

Meet a teacher who completed her education with our help

See how you can make a difference

For more news & information:

Visit our website (www.ghpfish.org) or click on the QR code.

Follow us on Facebook ([Gig Harbor Peninsula FISH](https://www.facebook.com/GigHarborPeninsulaFISH)).

Subscribe on YouTube ([GHP FISH Food Bank](https://www.youtube.com/GHPFISHFoodBank))

Thank you for your support. You can give now by mailing a check, dropping off your gift during open hours or clicking the **Donate Now** button on our website.



HOURS

MONDAY

9:30 AM – 3:30 PM

TUESDAY – CLOSED

WED - THU

9:30 AM – 6:00 PM

FRIDAY

9:30 AM – 3:30 PM

SATURDAY/SUNDAY

CLOSED

CLOSED FEDERAL

HOLIDAYS

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