

Happy 45th Anniversary to GHP FISH

Celebration set for Oct. 9 at Sehmel Park

GHP FISH turned 45 in June, and it's time to mark this milestone!

We're planning a 45th Anniversary Bash on Saturday, Oct. 9, from 2-4 p.m., at Sehmel Homestead Park. There will be refreshments, entertainment—and more—at the park pavilion. This is a family-friendly, free celebration.

All GHP FISH supporters are invited—but space is limited. Check the GHP FISH website



(<https://www.ghpfish.org>) for information on how to RSVP.

This will be a great opportunity to Honor our Past, Celebrate the Present, and Build the Future of GHP FISH!

Note from Ron

Caring now & in the future

"Who would have thought it?" is something we are hearing more and more as we celebrate our 45th anniversary. When the first small group of volunteers and church congregations started working to take care of their neighbors, their vision was focused on the present.

Never would they have imagined that today there would be 200 volunteers at GHP FISH working to feed their neighbors, help families stay in their homes, provide college/vocational students with books and transportation, deliver food to shut-ins, provide emergency financial assistance and provide many other services.

As GHP FISH has evolved and grown, we have focused not only

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Volunteer shares her 44-year view

GHP FISH has been serving the Gig Harbor community for 45 years, and Jane Hampton has



Board member Jane Hampton

has been helping do so for 44 of them.

A retired Pierce County librarian, Jane serves on the GHP FISH Board of Directors and as a telephone monitor and coordinator, responding to voice mail messages left on Tuesdays, when the food bank is closed.

She actually started out as a telephone monitor, but has held many volunteer roles over the years, including helping with the Safeway food donation program

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

Jane shares the long view

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and providing transportation for clients who need it.

Jane initially got involved with GHP FISH after her late husband Dean heard about the new food bank and “thought it was something we should be involved in.” They went to a meeting, and she signed on as a phone monitor. He served as treasurer for a time.

She’s seen GHP FISH grow and evolve over the past 44 years. “We’ve branched out into new services”—student financial aid being a great example, Jane said. “We can be flexible because we

aren’t bound to anybody’s rules but our own.”

Remembering GHP FISH’s initial cramped quarters in the Burton Park building on 38th Avenue (near today’s TCC campus), Jane is enthusiastic about the new building project. “We would never have imagined that,” she said.

Jane also recalled that some used to view Gig Harbor as a snobbish place, where residents didn’t want to be bothered with other people’s problems. “The success of FISH proves otherwise,” she said. “The number of people who are willing to help



Jane looks forward to driving clients again when Covid restrictions end.

with other someone else’s problems, and the support we get from the community financially, shows people in Gig Harbor care.

“It’s a wonderful service to the community, it’s wonderfully supported by the community, and serving in this manner is very rewarding emotionally.”

We're focused on neighbors' needs: Now and in future

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on meeting present needs, but also on considering what our neighbors may need in the future. Without this shift in focus, we never could have been ready for things such as the COVID situation. Knowing we must move ahead if we are to care for a growing community has brought us to the point where we

have broken ground for a new facility specifically designed to help us meet the future needs of our neighbors.

While there have been many changes over the years, one thing has remained constant: Our neighbors are what is important.

As GHP FISH has grown as an organization, community support has grown as well.

It is impossible to tell where FISH leaves off and the community begins.

Groups like “Swim with FISH” have been fundraising for GHP FISH for 15 years. The Lion’s Club, mail carriers, numerous churches, city employees, schools, many individuals, and local neighborhoods have all joined together to make taking care of our neighbors their job too.

Together, we are GHP FISH and together we will face the future!

Sincerely,
Ron Coen
Board President

To all the volunteers at the FISH food bank

Thank you for spreading hope!

I appreciate all you do to help my family continue to have hope and live in our home & have food.

Thank you, and God Bless.

(From a grateful neighbor)



Building committee and state representatives dig in at groundbreaking. — Photo courtesy of Sue King Photography

Building campaign is well underway

June 29 was a red-letter day for GHP FISH, as invited guests gathered to celebrate the official groundbreaking for our new home. “Gig Harbor has a strong tradition of taking care of our neighbors, and this new facility will ensure that the tradition will continue for generations to come,” Board President Ron Coen told the happy crowd.

Under sunny skies, volunteers and supporters used gold painted shovels to mark this watershed moment.

GHP FISH has been making do with less-than-ideal space for many years. We have been forced to rent seasonal storage space, send some perishables elsewhere, and sometimes turn away donations of household and clothing items. There are no private spaces for clients to explain their needs or meet with social service providers who can help them move to self-sufficiency.



The building also desperately needs electrical upgrades and energy-efficient heating and lighting.

Plans for a new facility kicked into high gear in 2020 when a community-minded local property owner offered GHP FISH a 99-year lease on a buildable lot—just 376 feet away—for \$1 a year.

The new 11,600-square-foot facility will enable GHP FISH to meet the community’s needs now and in the future. It is designed by Ratcliffe Gagliano Architecture and will be built by Washington Patriot Construction, both of Gig Harbor.

Fundraising is well underway, with \$5.5 million already committed toward the \$8 million campaign goal.

The building itself is estimated to cost \$2.8 million. Preconstruction expenses and other “hard” costs such as site work, landscaping, fixtures, equipment and furnishings are budgeted at \$2.9 million. Another \$1.8 million will cover “soft” costs such as fees, taxes, LEED Silver energy-efficiency certification, campaign expenses and contingencies.

An additional \$500,000 will establish an endowment fund as an ongoing source of operating income.

If you’d like to know more about the new home for GHP FISH and how you can help *build the future*, please contact Pamela Leazer, Campaign Manager, at pamela.leazer@gmail.com or 360-516-3786.



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Catch fresh news in this FISHline

Celebrate our 45th anniversary!

Meet Jane Hampton, who's served 44 out of our 45 years
Read Ron's report on how we're caring now and in the future
See how we're *Building the Future*

For more news & information:

Visit our website (www.ghpfish.org)
Follow us on Facebook ([Gig Harbor Peninsula FISH](#)).
Subscribe on YouTube ([GHP FISH Food Bank](#))

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

To remove your name from this mailing list or share your email address, please call (253) 858-6179 or email ghpfishmedia@gmail.com

HOURS

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

**CLOSED FEDERAL
HOLIDAYS**