



Photo by Kathy Cummings

Processing donations is one of many tasks in volunteer Sheron C's day.

Shelf stories

Making a difference

GHP FISH's tagline is: "More Than a Food Bank," but until you see the smiles and hear the gratitude in our clients' voices, it's hard to comprehend just how much your service or your donation matters. Here are a few close-up views.

A new volunteer felt the Food Bank's impact as she escorted a young single mother through the grocery aisles and the woman recounted her first visit.

"I'd never been to a food bank before," she said. "I had the kids and I'd been unemployed and desperately looking for work for a year." She didn't even have the right clothes to wear to interviews.

"The food bank and especially the clothing department helped me survive," our client said. "You even helped me get hired! You supplied nice clothes and make-up to wear

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

Thank you, volunteers!

Our 200 volunteers are the heart-beat of GHP FISH. They come from every walk of life and bring an incredible array of skills. Volunteers include a Microsoft engineer, a federal judge, nurses, homemakers, computer specialists, teachers, a doctor, PhDs, building managers, plumbers, an accountant, warehouse manager and folks from many other professions.

Each year they devote thousands of hours to the food bank and drive hundreds of miles to pick up and deliver food and run special events. It is impossible to highlight each of our incredible volunteers, but here is a sampling of what they do, starting with our new building.

- Kathy's top-rate videos helped

Report from Ron

tell our story to potential donors and the community.

- Lisa, Richel and their team wrote numerous successful grants.
- Amy guided us through a complicated process to obtain a \$2 million grant from the state.
- Sue used her communications experience to help us explain the need for the building.
- Betty's accounting skills held the financial process together.
- Our professional builder's representative shaved months off the building process, saving thousands of dollars and countless headaches.

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Our big dream comes true in record time

GHP FISH supporters cheered when founder Jan Coen cut the ribbon and officially opened our new, 11,500-square-foot facility on July 12. The celebration marked the culmination of a dream fulfilled by the combined efforts of hundreds of generous donors and dedicated volunteers.

The dream also came true in record time. We surpassed our \$8 million “Building the Future” campaign goal just 15 months after the first donors were contacted, and moved into our new building just one year after the groundbreaking ceremony.



The new building opened with big smiles and cheers — and no debt.

If you haven't visited our new facility, email Pamela Leazer, at pamelal@ghpfish.org to arrange a personal tour—or just stop by during open hours.

The campaign raised a total of \$8,102,044, including \$510,000 for the new GHP FISH Endowment Fund. Donations came from 563 individuals, 31 foundations, 10 faith communities, 35 businesses

and organizations, the City of Gig Harbor and the Washington Department of Commerce.

In these first few months, volunteers have welcomed record numbers of people to select the food, clothing, household goods and other necessities. Thank you to everyone who gave time and treasure to make this dream come true!

Volunteers' skills and time make everything possible

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Volunteers kept the food bank running during COVID and are doing so now as we serve more people than ever.

- Dawn can be found at all hours of the day/night—sorting clothing, delivering food, and helping folks

find extra help.

- Jane, a volunteer for over 40 years, keeps the after-hours phone monitoring system going.
- Geoff stocks the shelves and shops all over for the best deals.
- Betsy and Marty used their medical expertise to guide us

through the pandemic and remain on call through changing times.

- Numerous drivers use their own vehicles to pick up food at stores three days a week.
- For 13 years, Michelle in Financial Aid has helped hundreds of families stay in their homes and keep the lights on.

Could donating help your tax bill?

If you're over 70½, you may be able to reduce your 2022 taxable income by taking up to \$100,000 of your retirement account's required minimum distribution (RMD) as a qualified charitable distribution (QCD) to GHP FISH. To qualify, your IRA custodian must make out the check to GHP FISH Food Bank. Be sure to check with your tax adviser and get a receipt.

Our sincere thanks to these and many other past and present volunteers for all they have made possible.

Ron Coen
Board President

Annual Toy Drive prep hits high gear

GHP FISH 2022 Toy Program helpers are looking forward to returning to in-person shopping this December. Volunteers will help registered parents and guardians select toys, clothing and other gifts at appointed times on Friday, Dec. 16 and Saturday, Dec. 17 at 5775 Soundview Dr., the same location as the past two years.

Please encourage anyone feeling financially strained to sign up. Colorful toy program posters with the QR application link will be posted at local businesses, on the GHP FISH website and at the Food Bank's front door. Paper applications will also be available at the Food Bank. Applications are due by Dec. 14.

Thanks to the generosity of GHP FISH donors, 631 children received bundles of toys last year. To help, please drop off new toys, etc. for kids 0-18 at local



Helpers are excited about welcoming back shoppers.

businesses, post offices and the Food Bank during open hours. For gift ideas and information, see the GHP FISH Toy Drive webpage at <https://www.ghpfish.org/toydrive.html>. You can also purchase from our Amazon Wish List (<https://www.amazon.com/registries/holiday/1XRWHBAWTSU9I>).

Consider getting the whole neighborhood involved with a holiday toy drive. What a great way to get in the holiday spirit!

Shelf stories: We're more than a food bank

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to my interviews, and I now have a full-time job. I'm so very thankful for the help."

The client left happy and the volunteer's heart swelled. Neighbor helping neighbor provides a great dose of happiness for everyone.



Jim, a GHP FISH volunteer, found himself in a tight spot as he dressed for his son's wedding. His suit looked and fit great, but his dress shoes were falling apart. Luckily the wedding was at a golf course and his buddy said, "Follow me to the pro shop, we can grab a new pair there."

Black Skechers did the trick. They were a little casual, and only a size

size 9, half a size too small, but the wedding wouldn't wait. Jim made it through the day, even getting some high fives for his casual coolness, but he vowed never to squeeze back into those life-saving shoes.

His wife suggested they donate the shoes to GHP FISH's newly expanded boutique. Jim felt a little sheepish, since he'd already worn them; but he brought the pair along on his next volunteer shift. He found Dawn, who dedicates herself to our clothing area.

"Did you say Skechers?" Dawn asked. "Black? With a really stable sole?" Jim nodded as Dawn beamed. She explained that a client recovering from back surgery had called a few days before in search of good, sturdy

size-9 shoes to help him as he recuperated. The client mentioned Skechers as his dream shoe, but he didn't hold out much hope. Within half an hour, the lightly used sport shoes again saved the day.

Please share your "more than a food bank" moment. Send your story to suej@ghpfish.org. It may be edited to meet style and privacy guidelines.

Ready to serve?

GHP FISH has some great volunteer opportunities. Email ghpfvol@gmail.com to learn of our most pressing needs.



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

Food Bank Location (no mail)
4303 Burnham Drive
Gig Harbor, WA 98332

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

Inside the Fall FISHline

Ron highlights our volunteers' impact
Shelf stories capture 'more than a food bank' moments
Our Building the Future dream comes true
2022 Toy Drive gets underway

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.

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 PM

TUESDAY – CLOSED

WED - THU

9:30 AM – 5:30 PM

FRIDAY

9:30 AM – 3 PM

SATURDAY/SUNDAY

CLOSED

**CLOSED FEDERAL
HOLIDAYS**