

Summer, 2020

VOLUNTEER QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

Notes from the Volunteer Coordinator



Dear Volunteers -

Our world looks vastly different since our last newsletter and so does Helpline House. The number of clients we are serving remains steady AND we have added 61 new clients since the beginning of April. You might be interested in knowing that we just finished week #18 of our curbside delivery. Our current plan is to continue with this model through the end of September. In order to provide curbside food delivery, the inside of Helpline House had to be entirely reconfigured. I wish we could give volunteer tours because I think you would be impressed with the new arrangement and with the level of efficiency that has been reached. Many clients have indicated that they like this curbside model very much. Our temporary employees - **Dan Bacon, Cami Holtmeier and Laurie Reese** are masters at taking orders, thoughtfully preparing those orders and getting cars loaded. The average time for completing the process is about 5 minutes per car. We continue to get creative with distribution of items that are not part of our prepackaged bags. The 'MYSTERY BAG OF DRINKS' is a very popular choice. Week 19 will include Mexican and Indian food EXTRAS being offered.

Are you wondering what a prepacked bag of food contains?



1 can of soup, 1 can beans or veggies, 1 can of protein – tuna or chicken, 1 can of fruit, EXTRAS (depending on the week), bread, fresh fruit, fresh produce, choice of meat, choice of eggs or butter. We also have a vegetarian option.

Thank YOU Island Gardeners!



There are plenty of successful and generous gardeners on Bainbridge Island. Daily we are gifted with the bounty of their labors. This allows us to offer clients fresh flowers, berries, greens, herbs and even vegetable starts for those wanting to give their own green thumb a try.

PORCH PANTRY:



Our Porch Pantry is getting plenty of use. We fill it two and three times a day. We try our best to keep it stocked with pop top cans of protein, fruits, vegetables, hearty soups, prepackaged snack bags and hygiene kits. Thank you to St. Barnabas and many others for helping us keep this stocked. The BARN bins have allowed us to stock potatoes, onions, rice and beans on the front porch free from rodent tampering.

MEET OUR SUMMER HELPER:



Zeya Korytko (daughter of Cami Holtmeier) is a recent BHS graduate and has been hired to assist us through the summer and until she heads off to LEWIS AND CLARK COLLEGE for her freshman year. She is hard working and an absolute pleasure to have around.

CLOSED ON WEDNESDAYS

We began being closed on WED in early July and will continue to do so through August.

Volunteer Spotlight

CURBSIDE VOLUNTEER TEAM:



Thank you to our Curbside Volunteers who facilitate curbside delivery – **Janel Bedel, Janelle Baranski, Barb Swartling, Teresa Furlong and Cheryl Lakich**. This task requires plenty of talking, flexibility AND being out in the elements – all while wearing a mask. These volunteers show up with enthusiasm and a CAN DO attitude each week and we are very grateful.

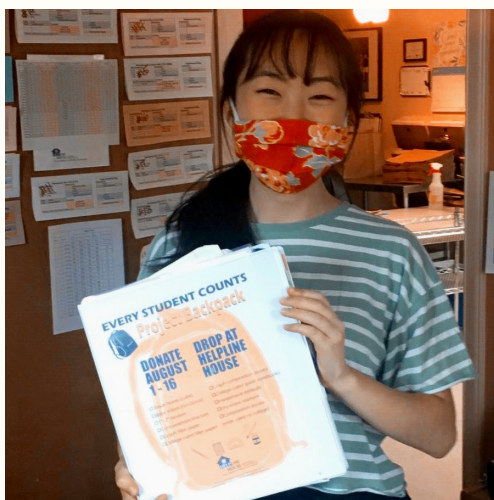
THANKS TO OUR SPECIAL PROJECT HELPERS:



Thank you to **Joanne and Becca Nickel**, who work to package our Mystery Drink Bags along with other tasks. **Anna and Amy Jernigan** keep our BAG PROJECT under control. **Deb Fenwick** prepares our snack bags and hygiene kits. **David Swartling, Julie Matthews, Janel Bedel, Giannine Doyle and Annette Maxson** keep us stocked up with prepackaged bags. **Patricia Intihar** keeps our lower barn organized and tidy. **Laurie Fergusson** runs to Costco for supplies. **Iris Eimon** helps us keep our hygiene/diaper products packaged. Student volunteers **Owen Rector and Thomas Murphy** assemble our Kids' Pantry bags. Thank you to these volunteers and to all of you who have offered to help. We look forward to being able to welcome all of you back as soon as we can.

Future Projects

TOOLS FOR SCHOOLS:



Typically at this time we are preparing for Project Backpack. Due to the uncertainty surrounding students returning to the classroom - we are postponing Project Backpack until we have more information. We will be offering **TOOLS FOR SCHOOL** bags the last two weeks of August to Helpline House families. These bags will have limited but necessary school supplies to assist students regardless of what school looks like in September. Student volunteer **Minyoung Cho** is managing the organization and preparation of these 200 bags. Rest assured - **PROJECT BACKPACK** will return as soon as it makes sense to do so!

PORTABLE

As mentioned previously, we are expecting the installation of our new portable unit on September 19th. This will provide our Social Work team with more meeting space. It will also require a few structural changes to our Resource Room. I hope you recognize the place when you return! Thank you to Michael Wright, Board Member, for all of his help on this project.

SO EXCITED

...to share with you that our very own Tanya and her fiancé Curtis will be married on 8/8 in a private ceremony at their home. We wish them much love and happiness. Koko is excited and ready for the festivities.



WELCOME BACK – Angie Emerson has been enjoying a well-deserved break for the month of July. We will all be excited to have her back 8/3.

THANK YOU all for reaching out and helping with **Grocery Rescue, Meat Rescue, our Bag Project, Costco runs, for making masks AND making donations.** A client recently told me he didn't know where he would be without Helpline House. Thanks to you – we are here.

Please feel free to contact Ellen at any time with questions or comments, or just to say hi! It is a huge honor for me to work with all of you.

Modified operation updates here.



Helpline House Food Bank | Social Services
volunteerservices@helplinehouse.org
(206) 842.7621
HelplineHouse.org

Connect with us

