Students in need can get a bundle of support before the school year begins, but we need your help to spread the word! As we all anxiously wait to see what the Fall brings, Tools for Schools* will mark a fresh start with some new school supplies for home (or hybrid learning) from colored pencils to a kid-sized face-covering for local pre-K through 12th grade students.

Parents or guardians pick up a Tools for School* bag between August 17 to 28 during curbside food service. We want everyone to shine bright for the new school year! No appointment, no paperwork is required. New households in need are welcome.

*Stay tuned to find out when Project Backpack can safely happen. We will post the school supply donation list and schedule Project Backpack when we know more about all students’ return to the classrooms.

Our friends at Modern Collision’s Classic Car Cruise-In got creative and paved a new route to give! Restored vintage cars paraded and honked around our island, guiding Project Backpack supporters to give online. With the community’s outstanding support and response, financial assistance continues to be available for education-related registration, graduation, and enrichment program fees for the new 2020-21 school year!
Any community member can get help with their mental health care or accessing and navigating more resources. Helpline House’s therapists and case managers are knowledgeable about local, state, and federal assistance during the COVID-19 crisis response. Referrals, resources, and services are available confidentially and cost-free via video and audio conferencing.

Social workers continue to prioritize a household's unique critical needs.

Helpline House’s Peer-to-Peer Mental Health Recovery Support Group is an opportunity for mutual support and growth for those with mental health conditions. Experience compassion and gain insight from hearing about the challenges and successes of others.

Designed for adults (18+) with mental health conditions. Co-facilitated by a Helpline House therapist and a case manager. A free, 90-minute online support group.

Online or phone meeting, you choose. 2nd and 4th Tuesdays, 1:30 to 3 pm
To request a link call 206.842.7621 or visit HelplineHouse.org/counseling

Helpline House's front porch pantry can be a big boost! People who come to the pantry can select foods that are easy to make for a quick dinner or an easy pack and go meal.

Did you know that staff sometimes restock the porch pantry a few times each day? Our neighbors are using the porch pantry like never before. Your donations make that happen! THANK YOU for your donations of canned proteins, canned fruits, and ready to eat foods. Staff try to put pull top cans in the porch pantry for those folks who take a can as their immediate next meal.

Thank you keeping up with the CAN-DO attitude, responders! Your swift action to donate Most Needed staples makes a difference.

Know what else is in the porch pantry? Plastic cutlery wrapped in a napkin and a few personal care items are stocked to make the experience that much more nourishing.

You can share and find Most Needed items at HelplineHouse.org and urgent pleas on our Facebook and Instagram pages as they happen.

Learn more about cost-free and confidential after-hour resources on our homeless assistance webpage at HelplineHouse.org/homeless-assistance
We all know the cost of food has increased. Furloughs and layoffs may continue, which may impact our neighbors. There may be more households needing assistance for the first time. In addition to caring for our neighbors in need, you can help folks stay connected. We hope you find the information below easy to share as you provide warmth, confidence, and care when checking on a neighbor you’re concerned about.

SNAP Market Match may help stretch food budgets to buy more fruits and vegetables! Shoppers can ask to use their (SNAP)/EBT benefit card when they see the SNAP Market Match logo near a vendor’s sign at local farmer’s markets, including BI Farmers’ Market.

Meals on Wheels at Bainbridge Island Senior Community Center (BISCC) offers frozen meals delivered at the Center once a week—five meals at once on Thursdays. To arrange for a pickup, call 360-377-8511 or toll-free 888-877-8511 by 2 pm on Wednesdays.

Home Delivery for households unable to come to the food bank or pick up Meals on Wheels at BISCC. To request a home delivery; call Island Volunteer Caregivers (IVC) at 206.842.4441

Since the sudden closure of schools in mid-March to slow-down the coronavirus pandemic, the Kids’ Pantry has distributed over 1,300 bags. More than 300 children will continue to receive kid-friendly nutritious foods thanks to Bainbridge Community Foundation and First Federal Community Foundation for engaging our community and granting the Kids’ Pantry program an all-time high donation!

More thank yous to all who stay tuned on social media to urgent pleas and donate Most Needed foods on the spot! Specific in-kind donations have replenished what could not be purchased due to ongoing issues with sourcing foods from state vendors these past few months. Working together builds a variety pack of support for our neighbors in need.

You should know all kinds of support continue in our state. For instance, the Washington Department of Health launched a new Pandemic EBT (P-EBT) for households with children through the Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program EBT basic benefits. Learn more at HelplineHouse.org/food-bank

A Variety Pack of Support

Connecting Community
Apart but together is prominently shared as the Knights of Columbus offers assistance to our neighbors. Our Medical Equipment program is temporarily on hold, but you can help us make sure to deliver a smile. Please share available resources found on our webpage at HelplineHouse.org/medical-equipment.