



Dear Bainbridge Island Gardener,

Thank you so much for your interest in growing fresh produce to donate to Helpline House. Produce is so appreciated year-round; it is our number one most popular category of food items.

Here are some hints for growing and donating fresh produce to the Helpline food bank.

- **A variety is better than one crop.** We receive a lot of kale and chard, but it is popular so I don't discourage donating it, but perhaps not specially grow it for us. On the other hand, beets, carrots, green onions, broccoli, beans and peas are very popular and we do not get much.
- **Early spring** is quite slow as gardeners are just getting going, so any early crops such as peas and lettuces would be a great.
- **Washing and bagging produce.** As much as possible, please do wash and bag. Bunched vegetables do not absolutely have to be bagged but does store better. We would be happy to provide plastic or paper bags if you need some.
- **Portions can be for 2 to 4.** A large number of our households are 1 or 2 person households, but visitors come only once a week so will often take more than one meals worth of produce. The more produce we receive, the more generous we can be!
- **The best time for produce drop off is weekdays, 9:30 – 11:30am.** A volunteer will greet you and can help you unload and accept your donation. If you put your goods in your trunk, we can also unload for you for a physically distanced drop off. Tax receipts are available on request.

Thank you so much for your interest in donating to Helpline House! We would be happy to give you a tour of our facility and talk about how your produce will be distributed to those in need. Please let us know if you have any questions.

Happy Gardening!



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