Over 130 Helpline House volunteers have big hearts, lend a helping hand and make our island a better place, every week!

Volunteer Quarterly Newsletter - Spring

Teamwork comes in all sizes.

Notes from Volunteer Coordinator:
Dear Volunteers,
Thank you so much for all of your hard work over the past few months. Thanks to your efforts we are averaging service to approximately 230 families a week; we distributed 63 Kid’s Pantry Bags over Spring Break and we sorted, moved and stocked 22,000 lbs of food donated from the Sakai Food Drive. These efforts are just a few examples of how neighbors helping neighbors can have a positive impact on a community. Please read on for more information on other Helpline House news and happenings!

Volunteer Spotlight:
Helpline is blessed with amazing student volunteers. These students show up with great attitudes and a willing spirit. Their presence and their contributions cannot be measured and are much appreciated. Aidan Wagner is one of our student volunteers. Aidan is currently a senior at BHS but his volunteer relationship with Helpline began when he was a 6th grade student at Hyla Middle School. He enjoyed that experience and has continued to volunteer through high school. Aidan likes volunteering at Helpline because it gives him a break from the stress of school and is a better use of his time and more rewarding than going home and watching television. Volunteering at Helpline has made Aidan feel that the efforts of one person do make a difference! Aidan will be heading to college soon where he plans to major in engineering. While in college, Aidan is looking forward to traveling to other countries in pursuit of volunteer opportunities which will allow him to use what he is learning in his engineering classes. Aidan - thank you so much for all of the time you have given to Helpline House. Good luck to you and HAPPY VOLUNTEERING!

WELCOME TO OUR NEW VOLUNTEERS:
Janell Baranski, Peggy Eichenberger, Teri Koller, Julie Matthews, Patrick Miller, Bob Murphy, Sharon Nelson, Theresa Thorpe, Kayli Stoddard, Joan Spencer, Dale Walker, Venifa Wen.
FRONT DOOR PROJECT: Thank you to Rotary and our Facilities Committee for helping to make our front door ADA acceptable. Our porch has been extended to allow for proper wheelchair turning radius and our door will soon be automated allowing easier access for those in wheelchairs and walkers. As an added benefit, shoppers with full hands will be able to exit with a quick and easy press of a button!

AUTOMATED EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATOR: Again - thanks to Rotary – we are now equipped with an AED in our Resource Room. We will be scheduling Defib and CPR training soon which we will open to our volunteers. We would love for as many volunteers as possible to take advantage of this opportunity. Stay tuned for dates/time for that training. We are grateful that Helpline House is now an even safer place for our clients.
Plant a Row

We get excited around here about FRESH PRODUCE. We want to encourage ALL GARDENERS to consider planting a row specifically for Helpline House. Appreciation slips are available to anyone who donates produce from their garden. Those appreciation slips will then be PROUDLY AND GRATEFULLY displayed above our Helpline House front desk. Please spread the word and consider PLANTING A ROW yourself!

SUMMER HELPERS:
We are excited about summer and the opportunity to welcome younger volunteers to Helpline House. Children 8 and up and accompanied by their parent will be able to volunteer in the Foodbank. These opportunities will give us a chance to help educate more community members about all that Helpline House does and we are hoping these opportunities will also instill an early interest in volunteering.

GRAND OLD 4TH OF JULY PARADE:
Join the Helpline House Volunteers, Board Members and Staff in this fun event. Our presence in this event is an opportunity to thank the community for their support and to increase community awareness of all that Helpline House does. Let’s show our strength in numbers! We will need decorators on 7/3 @ 4:00 at Helpline and parade marchers on 7/4 beginning at 12:00. Contact Ellen @ volunteerservices@helplinehouse.org for details on how to participate.
UPCOMING VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES:

5/11
Letter Carriers Food Drive

5/27
Helpline House CLOSED

6/21
Kids Summer Pantry Bags Distribution Begins

7/4
Grand Old 4th of July Parade

7/8-7/12
Housewares Outlet

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES: How does your summer volunteer schedule look? We have many volunteer openings for summer. Visit HelplineHouse.org/volunteer, scroll to the bottom and click the blue button for the volunteer calendar login.

It is our goal that our volunteers have a rich and rewarding experience. If you feel you would like to try volunteering in a new or different way – please stop by my office or email me at volunteerservices@helpline house.org

// CONNECT WITH US //

Helpline House Food Bank and Social Services of Bainbridge Island

Helpline House has a policy of non-discrimination regardless of race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, sexual preference, age, disability or veteran’s status, and is in compliance with all requirements of law and regulations with respect to employment, volunteer participation or service delivery.
SPARE SQUARES: Helpline House has started a new program, to use what’s old. You know when you check into a hotel and there is always a new roll of toilet paper? Hotel staff refresh the toilet paper rolls when there is plenty still left to be used. Have you ever wondered what happens to ALL those rolls? They end up taking up space in a warehouse somewhere, or worse, going to the landfill. Helpline House now rescues those rolls and refreshes them for our food bank shoppers. This helps the environment, results in more toilet paper for our households and saves Helpline House money which can be spent on other needed items. Where can you find this repacked paper? In our attic.

SALES FORCE: Angie has worked hard and we now have Sales Force up and running on our computers at Helpline House. Why did we get a new system? Client Card – our old system – is becoming obsolete. Sales Force is a much more robust system which will be used agency wide. Thank you to ALL of our volunteers for being willing to learn this new system and thank you to Teresa Thorpe for helping to train us.

ROOTING FOR HELPLINE HOUSE: Perhaps you’ve seen our produce shelves lately...maybe you noticed the sweet smell of basil or the eye catching colors of fresh local tomatoes. Thanks to the Bainbridge Community Foundation and all of you who support BCF, Helpline was the lucky recipient of a grant to purchase more produce for our shoppers AND do so by supporting local farmers. We recognized that produce is at its peak when it is freshly harvested and we wanted to contribute to the local farming community that has been so generous to Helpline in the past. Enter BCF’s community grant – with our BCF grant, Helpline started new vendor relationships and enriched existing relationships with a few local farms, Vireo Farm, Secret Spring Farm, and Peaceful Morning Farm. We concentrated on the winter months when we generally have less produce donated from stores and other Island gardeners. Our farmers did not disappoint! We received a bounty of lettuces, basil, broccoli raab, sorrel, claytonia, mint tips, squash and gourds, rosemary fronds, and much more. All the produce made for very happy and well-nourished food bank shoppers. We can’t say thank you enough to our farmers, to BCF, and to all of you who supported this great partnership.