



Food Bank  
Social Services

Second Quarter 2020

## Food For Thought



Thank You for Your Support!

Thank you to all our supporters that help bring us together, so no one is left behind during these tough times.

Your quick action and generosity in March and April secured our ability to purchase foods and assist with households' unimaginable and sudden loss of income. Helpline House's case managers are helping households find and manage financial support for rental assistance, utility relief, and more.

During these times of unprecedented change, we at Helpline House have met with people we would not normally encounter, like small business owners who are simply trying to figure out how to pay bills and put food on the table for their families. One such woman, Mrs. Smith\*, with two children, scheduled an appointment with a social worker. Not knowing how she was going to pay rent, her energy bill, or feed her children she was

overrun with anxiety and fear. Through community contributions and city funding, we were able to pay her rent, bring her up to date on her energy bills, and provide nutritious food for her family. Her tears of relief spoke volumes.

COVID-19 brought the Adams\* family to Helpline House in March after Dad had lost his restaurant job and the family, which included two children, could not pay their rent. Helpline House was able to help with April rent and the case manager discussed other available resources for the family, such as BARN Bites and the availability of breakfast and lunch distribution at Ordway School. The family shops at the food bank weekly and Mom reached out again in April for help with paying their PSE bill through Warm Home Funds. Her case manager also referred her to DSHS to apply for the Disaster Cash Assistance program. This family is very appreciative of the assistance Helpline House provides during this stressful time.

More of our neighbors will find themselves needing financial and emotional support for the first time. Encourage neighbors in need to schedule a phone appointment and begin remote services with a social worker.

\*Names have been changed for confidentiality.



Neighbor Helping Neighbor for a  
Healthy & Whole Community.



## Together, Partnerships Grow

Joint efforts weave the threads of our community to stay connected. **Thank You Island Volunteer Caregivers (IVC)** for coordinating home deliveries of food bank boxes filled with perishables and non-perishables, including proteins, vegetables, fruit, pasta, and fresh foods for all ages to the most vulnerable households. Families or individuals that are unable to come to the food bank or have specific dietary needs may call IVC to request help with shopping and arrange payment. Please call IVC directly to arrange for a Helpline House box delivery at 206.842.4441

**Thank you to BARN's coordinator, Wayne Chang, and BARN's volunteers** for answering the food bank manager's plea. Their top-notch construction of the new porch bins (and speedy service, built-in two days) will enable Helpline House clients to access food weeknights and weekends!

"We were able to work at a safe distance from each other and still make it happen," Chang said. They made the bins squirrel-proof and touch-free, as requested.



## Accessing More Resources

Our community's spirit has always endeavored to meet those who need a helping hand. Together, we've seen neighbors recover from financial and emotional crises and we will again through the COVID-19 recovery. Please share some of our resources below. Find more support at [HelplineHouse.org](https://www.helplinehouse.org)



**The Washington State Department of Financial Institutions** at [dfi.wa.gov/coronavirus/financial-resources](https://dfi.wa.gov/coronavirus/financial-resources)



**City of Bainbridge Island Updates** at [bainbridgewa.gov/1213/COVID-19](https://bainbridgewa.gov/1213/COVID-19)



**Kitsap Community Resources.org** at [KCR.org](https://KCR.org)



**Bainbridge Island Resource Directory** at [resourcesdirectorybi.org](https://resourcesdirectorybi.org)



## Ring the Back Porch Doorbell

In-kind donations are gratefully accepted weekdays, 9 am to noon. **Most needed: Pull tab cans of veggies, fruit and vegetables.**

Kitsap! **GREAT GIVE**  
April 21, 2020

## You Took Our Breath Away

Many thank yous for your donations through Kitsap Great Give! **Your generosity during these unprecedented job losses shines brighter than the stars.** Because of you, Helpline House will be able to assist more households in the weeks to come.

## Start a Victory Garden

Calling all home gardeners and **pea-patchers!** Donate easy to grow veggies such as broccoli or carrots - one row makes a difference. Root for Helpline House at [BainbridgePrepares.org/victorygarden](http://BainbridgePrepares.org/victorygarden)

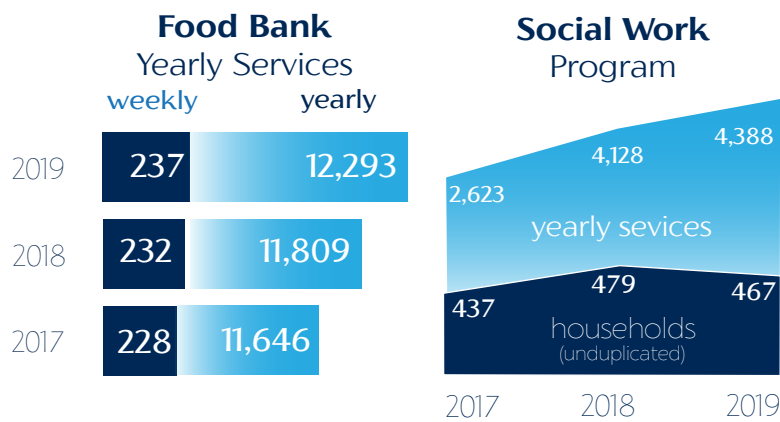


## Map Your Neighborhood

Bainbridge Prepares Map Your Neighborhood (MYN) groups use their email distribution list to help gather food donations to support the Helpline House food bank. You can connect, share, and grow with your neighbors at [BainbridgePrepares.org](http://BainbridgePrepares.org) through MYN!



# Your Impact in 2019



**HELPLINE HOUSE**  
282 Knechtel Way NE  
Bainbridge Island, WA 98110

NON PROFIT ORG  
US POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
Seattle, WA  
PERMIT #3228

Together, supporting community and share updates with you via social media. **Follow us and use information you need.**



Helpline House.org | office@helplinehouse.org | 206.842.7621



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.

## Go Green

Subscribe to our e-newsletter at [HelplineHouse.org](http://HelplineHouse.org)

## Welcome Temporary Staff

Welcome Laurie Reese, Cami Holtmeier, and Dan Bacon! We are so grateful to have you onboard every weekday as production and distribution continue to change to meet the need. Thank you for all your help, strength, and support to ensure that Helpline House continues to be a resource for our Island Neighbors in need.

## Missing Our Volunteers

The food bank has minimal space making social distancing very challenging. It was difficult to ask 135+ volunteers to step back at as we modified our operations to a much smaller workforce. We are comforted in knowing they are safe and sound as we look forward to creating new opportunities for their return. Stay tuned.

"How can a community this size support a social service agency that offers so many services?" I often pondered that question over the past three years as I have learned more and more about my new hometown of Bainbridge Island. Oh, the island is beautiful, the amenities of places to eat and play are many. Opportunities for the arts abound. Schools are good. The library is superb, as well as, Bloedel, the parks, the trails, the woodlands and the wetlands. I could go on and on. And then there is Helpline House. "Neighbor helping neighbor." No matter where we came from or when, no matter our life circumstances of income or family configuration, we have taken to heart the significance of "neighbor helping neighbor". And so I have become a volunteer at Helpline House.

Shirley Funk, Helpline House Volunteer