



Pro Visions

Summer 2019

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Auburn Food Bank

Mission Statement

The Auburn Food Bank provides food, referrals and emergency assistance to those in need within The Auburn School District

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New Board Member Nichole Thomas



My name is Nichole Thomas. I've lived in Auburn my entire life! My husband, Jason and I have two children, Braydon ~ 10 and Bryn ~ 5 they both attend Arthur Jacobsen Elem on Lea Hill. My husband is a Commercial Plumbing Contractor and is the proud owner of JT's Plumbing and Mechanical and I am the Operations Manager for one of the top real estate teams in the state; Jon Bye & Associates. We keep ourselves very busy with flag football, AHS youth basketball, ballet, tap, camping, boating and anything else outdoors you could think of! Both my husband and I are graduates of AHS (GO TROJANS!) It's very surreal to now have our kids involved in the very same programs, in the same locations

as we did as children so many years ago. I'm absolutely honored and quite honestly incredibly excited to be the newest member of the Auburn Food Bank's Board. Several years ago, I met Debbie. I'm so glad that connection was made. She made me fall in love with the work she and the food bank do for our community. My team, husband and myself volunteer for the food bank whenever possible. We also have many drives for different items needed throughout the year (food, school supplies and toys) When I was approached to write my bio for this and include my "Why Auburn Food Bank"...my answer is WHY NOT? I find myself thinking back years before and wondering what I was doing and why I didn't find the time to help more (when, before kids...I for sure had more time to do so!) I can't wait to see what the future holds for this incredible program we have running in our very own neighborhood. I would encourage anyone looking for a way to give back to raise your hand!



Back to School Supplies

The Auburn Food Bank will be drop off place for this year's Back to School Supplies for kids in the Auburn School District. Community in Schools will not be overseeing this program this year as they have had to close.

Please drop off your donations to the Food Bank by August 23. For a list of needed items go to <https://www.auburn.wednet.edu/domain/1152>.

Director's Report

What a great honor! This young girl (Aida) is from Kazakhstan! She is studying at Green River College through the Study of the United States Institute (SUSI) on Women's Leadership.

Following their time in this program, the student must have a "follow-up project" that they take from America home to their country to implement. Aida chose to return and start a food bank in her city! I cannot tell you the feeling this brings to know the work we shared with her has inspired her to return and help her others!

She had great questions but the hardest two to answer was about the judgment of people and the stamina it was going to take her to break through the barriers of others!

I remembered back to a day when I had picked up a daisy and started pulling the petals, going through the little childhood rhyme of "he loves me, he loves me not" and my mind went to my work and I started saying: "judge me, judge me not" as I picked those petals off the daisy. I realized that is something I do every day. I see a person, I hear their story, I make a judgment. When I lay down to sleep sometimes those judgments come back to haunt me and I wonder if I made the right one. I wonder if I made the judgment because I was already angry about something or did I make the judgment because I had not taken the time to listen to each and every facet of their life to then come up with a reasonable solution/judgment for what I could do or what this business could do to help them?

As they come through the door with high anxiety over having to ask for the most basic of their needs, or at the end of their day when they've been to work and they've heard everyone talk about all the cool things they have or get to do or what their weekend might look like! This person coming to the door has been riddled with all the wonderment of life that they aren't participating in when I see their anxiety, their anger at what little they might've gotten for the day, and I judge them on their anger, have I not disrespected what their day was and how it made them feel? My little daisy reminds me, again today, that's how I made judgment and how I treated someone.



I shared with Aida that judgment would be the hardest thing to work with and against!

Stamina – that is something that has to come from within her! She needs to believe in what she wants to do! She needs to believe that what she is doing is the right thing to do! She needs to believe that each day she worked hard and did her best – now go home and enjoy your evening! While all the problems can't be solved today, remember that these same problems didn't just start today. The problems have had days and weeks and months to come to fruition. One day won't solve them. Tomorrow will always be a new day to face the challenges and try again! And sometimes we have to string many tomorrows together to work on the problem! The challenge will be to never give up!

I wish this young woman well! I am better today because of her!



Debbie Christian, Executive Director

Letter from the President

In 2009, I was honored to hold the position of board president for the Auburn Food Bank. Back then I had only been on the board for about three years and here I am 10 years later stepping into the role for a second time. Below is part of the message I submitted in August 2009:

I am pleased to be stepping in as president of the board for this outstanding organization. Following in the footsteps of Dr. Martin will not be easy, he has set a great example of leadership and dedication to this community through his service and I would like to thank him for that.

Joining this board...has proven to be one of the best decisions I have ever made and I am humbled to be a part of this board that exemplifies service beyond self. We are made up of community members from all walks of life and we seek to accomplish one large and complex task. To end hunger in our community. We are led by an individual that has been recognized as the 2008 Person of the Year by the Auburn Reporter and distinguished alumnus by Leadership Institute of South Puget Sound and Debbie Christian truly does award-winning work each and every day.

And lastly, it is you, the individual in this community that keeps the doors open for the underserved and your generosity and willingness to reach out to others less fortunate is humbling and fills me with pride about the individuals that live in our city. Auburn is my hometown and a city that I have lived, worked or served in since birth. I attended and taught in the Auburn School District and now work for the City of Auburn...I aim to continue my service to Auburn through my work, my donations, and volunteerism and hope that you will continue to join me in this endeavor in whatever way you can.

I reflect now on what has and has not changed since I last held this role. What hasn't changed in the need in our community. Too many kids are still going to bed hungry. Too many families and individuals are finding themselves without a roof over their head. Too many seniors wonder if they can pay for their medication or rent and forego food to keep afloat. What also hasn't changed is the commitment of this board and our award-winning leader Debbie Christian (she's won a bunch more awards over the last decade!) to stand in the gap and lift up those that need us the most. And what we hope won't change for you is to continue to support us in our mission. Thank you!

Dana Hinman



Day in the Park

Jon Bye & Associates recently had a DAY IN THE PARK event to put together Blessing Bags for the homeless community. These blessing bags consisted of soaps, shampoos, socks, ponchos, water bottles, toothbrush and toothpaste sets, and other miscellaneous items. Their goal was to create 200 of these bags! They invited their family, friends, clients, and business partners to participate. Alki Bakery was kind enough to donate sandwich trays and we grilled hot dogs! So many people came and made so many bags. Many people were filling two or three bags at once to ensure that they hit their goal for the day. Not only were people filling bags, they were also coloring inspirational sayings to put



in the bags as well. Even kids got in on the fun of making the bags and playing yard games. The day was such a success. They made over 200 blessing bags, many of which they donated to the Auburn Food Bank!! The Auburn Food Bank thanks you Jon Bye & Associates team!



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SAVE THE DATE

Friday, November 1st 2019

26th Annual Harvest Breakfast

It's early but we want you to get it on your calendar: The 26th annual Harvest Breakfast will be held on Friday, November 1 at 7am at Grace Community Church in Auburn. Remember if you want to be a table captain or sponsor, give us a call at the food bank.

From the editor: ProVisions welcomes your comments and suggestions. Please send them to:

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