

Why I Support Ballard Food Bank's New Home



Hope Beyond Hunger Capital Campaign Chair and Past-President of the Ballard Food Bank Board of Directors, Julia Weisenburger, shared with us why our new home is important to the community but also to her personally.

Why is the work of the Ballard Food Bank important to you?

Julia: Ballard Food Bank's work is personal to me. This isn't something I talk about every day, but I had a single mom and I remember when times were tough. When you experience food insecurity at some point in your life, you don't forget it. It's been important to me to do what I can so that other families have enough food.

Why have you supported Ballard Food Bank's New Home?

Julia: When it came time to start the capital campaign and raise funds for the Food Bank's first permanent home, I jumped at the chance to lead the charge and chair the campaign. My husband and I talked it over and made a stretch gift ourselves because this is so important to us and the community. We are 90% of the way to reaching the \$13.9 million goal! I encourage everyone to give what they can to be a part of this special community project. **Donate or raise funds by creating a peer-to-peer fundraising page at www.ballardfoodbank.org/ournewhome**

SAVE THE DATE

May 4-5

All proceeds will go directly to our new home!

www.givebigwa.org/ballardfoodbank



Connect with us! @ballardfoodbank



www.ballardfoodbank.org

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Letter From Executive Director

Construction of our new home is well underway!

When I visit the site – which visibly changes every day – I am inspired and hopeful for the future of our community. This new building and the events that have led us to this point embody our core value that food and hope are basic human rights.



The pandemic dramatically changed the life of so many individuals and families in our community and called us to push the limits of what was possible. Our volunteers, supporters, and staff rose to meet these challenges. Whether in schools, homes, or in-person at the Food Bank, we shifted and expanded our food programs to meet the increased demand safely. With the eviction moratorium our financial assistance program adjusted to expand access and offer more flexibility for individuals and families needing rental assistance. Our Community Resource Hub even moved outside so providers and clients could meet safely.

We are excited to imagine how our programs will unfold in the new space.

With more room and capacity, our new home will help us increase access for individuals and families needing healthy food, financial assistance and other services across Northwest Seattle, including the additional zip code of 98133 – which covers Licton Springs through Bitter Lake and up to 145th.



Our new home opens its doors at a critical moment. Recovery from COVID-19 is paramount, but we know many folks who visit us were left behind prior to the pandemic, and we must focus on an equitable recovery for all our neighbors.

The Hope Beyond Hunger campaign – our effort to raise the funds for our new home – entered an important milestone this month. We are officially in the public phase of our fundraising effort, and we are counting on our community to help us cross the finish line. **Please make your gift today!**



Thank you. Together we are neighbors helping neighbors.

Jen Muzia

Jen Muzia, Executive Director

P.S. Keep an eye on our website for some fun ways to be involved this spring! www.ballardfoodbank.org/ournewhome

The New Hub For Hope

Our vision is to provide our neighbors with greater access to the resources they need to overcome systemic obstacles to financial stability. In the new space, we will enhance our homelessness prevention services through the new Community Resource Hub. Agencies will come to us on a rotating schedule and connect with clients in our small private rooms, where individuals will feel comfortable in a familiar, trusted location.



- The Hub facilitates rent, utility payments, and security deposits on behalf of our clients so that they can remain stably housed.
- Lack of a mailing address and state ID are some of the most common barriers to employment. We make sure any person in Seattle can use our mailbox and ID services so they can find housing, avoid eviction, secure employment, and stay connected to loved ones.
- The Hub will host a wide array of partner agencies that provide medical care – including wellness exams, mental health counseling, and referrals for dental care – as well as support for veterans, assistance in seeking housing and understanding tenant rights, and finding employment.

Andrea Caupain Sanderson (CEO/ Byrd Barr Place): "Byrd Barr Place's relationship with Ballard Food Bank has been a longtime relationship. I love that the Hub will be growing as a result of this new space, so people have access not just to food and shelter, but also case management services, health services, connecting them to services such as rental assistance, utility assistance, filling their oil tanks, transportation. These are all things that our clients need, and they shouldn't be burdened with having to go to multiple locations to seek those services. Having it under a one stop shop really is in service to our community and meeting them where they are."



Make Your Gift Today

A generous donor will match every gift towards our campaign up to \$60,000 from now until April 30th! Make a gift today to help us realize our dream of owning our own home.