

Summer 2009

# Pro Visions

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

## *Officers*

### **President**

Kevin Martin

### **Vice-President**

Dana Hinman

### **Secretary**

Barbara Vance

### **Treasurer**

Chuck Folsom

### **Immediate Past President**

Terri Herren

### **Executive Director**

Debbie Christian

## *Board of Directors*

Scott Ansede

Kathy Bruya

Lorianne Claudon

Christine Farrell

Dennis Grad

Sherry Hagerty

Dan Lancaster

Pete LaPointe

Willard Lathrop

Lois McCrabb

Marian Thomas

## *Advisors*

Chuck Booth

Leila Booth

Sue Bregel

Steve Christiansen

Barbara Derda

Brenda Heineman

Fred Helser

David Jarvey

Robert Klontz

Jack Laverty

Pete Lewis

Jack Miller

Julie Molen

Jeani Rottle

JoAnn Swanson

## *Auburn Food Bank Summer Dinner and Auction*

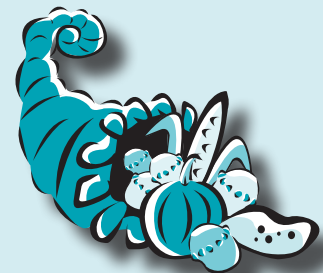
On Friday evening, June 26, TAFB held an auction and dinner at the Truitt Building in Auburn. The buffet dinner was provided by Long Horn Barbeque. They are faithful supporters of TAFB and we want to thank them so much for the lovely buffet. We, also, want to thank the many groups, businesses, and individuals who contributed the auction items and to those of you who purchased them and/or made donations. This was our first attempt at this type of venue and we are elated because as of this printing, we have made over \$15,000! Truly, the community of Auburn takes care of those who are in need. Thank you!!!

## *All School Food Drive*

Again this year The Auburn Food Bank was the recipient of the efforts of the schools in the Auburn School District. We received 56,568 pounds of food and \$18, 869.00 in cash. The winning schools were Evergreen Heights Elementary, Olympic Middle School, and Mountain View High School. Every pound and dollar was added to the Feinstein Challenge and we are waiting to hear what we will receive from this foundation. TAFB wants to thank Jeani Rottle and Steve Christiansen for making this happen and the Auburn School District, students, parents, and others who lent a hand to make this successful.

## *Volunteers*

Twelve years ago a friend who volunteered at the food bank suggested to Millie Conley that she should also try volunteering. Millie's friend worked in the food area, but Millie was not able to stand for long periods so she became a receptionist at the front desk. She answered the phone and also helped newcomers fill out paperwork so they could be interviewed for using the food bank. Millie says she really enjoyed her job and only stopped volunteering because of health reasons. She thinks Auburn has one of the best food banks and she enjoyed meeting the people who came to use it. Debbie Christian and Pam Johnson nominated her for queen for The Good Old Days Parade and even though she didn't win that honor, she was a princess and rode in the parade. She will be missed at the front desk!



## *Harvest Breakfast*

As you start marking your calendars for fall events, remember to put down the annual Harvest Breakfast which will be held on Friday, November 6, 2009. This is our biggest fundraising event of the year and we look forward to seeing you there.

## Director's Report

With the summer season come fruits and vegetables from our farmers!

Moseby Farms is a great support to the food bank and with the community gardens starting and now the Farmer's Market – we are excited to be able to give our clients fresh fruit and vegetables! For those of you with small gardens at your home – think of us when you just can't eat another \_ (whatever it is you are growing)\_!

We are very pleased to be able to give quality food and we are able to do that because of the incredible donations!

Do you realize we make 16 regular pick-ups from the local grocery stores and bakeries every day? This food – along with what we can order through Food Lifeline – is the main source of our supply. However, we can't get by without you and your donations! You are what carry us through the lean times and what support us when the grocery donation is down. We always get asked: "What do you need most?" Because every donation is a random supply of something, it's just easier to tell you: "if you can buy it at the grocery store – we need it!"

Hygiene products and paper goods are another resource we need. Food Stamps don't allow the clients to purchase those items.....and if you can't clean your clothes or feel good about your own hygiene – you probably are embarrassed to be at work – and will mostly likely "underperform" in your duties.

***Willing to donate? Can't decide what to get?***

***What is it you need – or especially like? So will our clients!***

We are hearing so much about the state, county and city budget cuts....and we don't know how all this will be affecting us just yet. There have been some emergency grants that have come out – helping with specific needs like equipment to keep our food stored and monies for homelessness and housing. We have applied for those that fit our needs and are awaiting the answers. You – the donor – have still been our "protection from the storm." So many have handed us money and said "...there by the grace of God, go I."

Thank you for your heart that says: "not on my watch – will my neighbor go hungry!"

*Debbie Christian, Executive Director*



## Dear Supporters of the Auburn Food Bank,

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 at the invitation of Commander Willard Lathrop three years ago 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 lead by an individual who has been recognized as the 2008 Person of the Year by the Auburn Reporter and distinguished alumnus by Leadership Institute of

South Puget Sound. Debbie Christian truly does award-winning work each and every day.

And lastly, it is you, the individual in this community who keeps the doors open for the underserved. Your generosity and willingness to reach out to others less fortunate is humbling and fills me with pride about the individuals who live in our city. Auburn is my hometown and a city that I have lived in since birth. I attended and taught in the Auburn School District and now work for the City of Auburn in communications. 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.

Respectfully,  
Dana Hinman, President  
Auburn Food Bank Board of Directors

## Letter from the President



It has been a year since I started my term as president of the Board of Directors at The Auburn Food Bank, and it has been a year. In this newsletter, Debbie Christian hits some high points on the staggering numbers of families we are serving, the numbers of new families enrolling, and the increasing volumes we are seeing day in and day out. The good news is that, while we aren't rebuilding stores, because of your on-going support we have not had to cut services and we are keeping up with demand. Just keeping up sounds pretty good right now.

This is probably a good time to give a little window into how the different pieces of the Auburn Food Bank fit together. Most important are the volunteers who man the lines and keep families moving through. Volunteers augment the driver pool, deliver food to shut-ins and generally do most of the heavy-lifting, often quite literally. Their time and energy is the bone and sinew of the work we do. We could not function if we did not have these generous and energetic people in the trenches.

If volunteers are the body, our small paid staff is the nervous system and the guts of the beast. They manage, they oversee and direct the volunteers, and they are there every day. They are led by our Executive Director, Debbie Christian.

Debbie is amazing. It seems you cannot pick up an issue of the Auburn Reporter without reading of an award Debbie has received. Most recently, she received the 2009 Leadership Institute of South Puget Sound's Distinguished Alumni Award, recognizing an alumnus who exemplifies the spirit of leadership and the goals of the Institute. Her job is to figure out how to meet that amazing growing need with very finite resources. She isn't just the brain, she is also the face The Auburn Food Bank puts out to the community in many speaking engagements every month, and she leads and represents us well.

The Board of Directors is the imagination and the conscience. Our job is to try to make sure that we stay true to the community, that we are responsible with your generosity, and to try endlessly to figure out new ways to give Debbie more to work with. The current directors bring a dazzling array of talents and gifts, from business acumen to leadership skills to graphic arts to web design to broad social networks. They all share a selflessness, a generous nature, and an ability to have fun while working hard.

None of this would mean a thing without a caring and generous heart. That, friends and neighbors, is your gift, your role. The strength of that heart has kept us going for many years, some harder than others. It has allowed us to grow to help cushion the economy's blow on Auburn's families, its children.

As I finish my term as president, I want to thank the volunteers for their hours of hard work and the staff for their ability to keep the volunteers and the food moving day after day after day. I want to thank the board for their energy, their support, their patience and their passion for the work we do. I want to thank Chris Farrell in particular for her willingness to gently and persistently pester me to get my letters done, because I needed that. Thank you, Debbie, for making this whole thing work, and for making it look like we both know what we're doing, when in reality I'm just following your lead. And most importantly, I once again want to thank you, the people whose generous gifts of food and money we use to feed those who otherwise might not know where the next meal is coming from.

My last request: as Dana Hinman starts her term as president, please support her as you have me, and support our community as only Auburn can. You, Dana, Debbie and The Auburn Food Bank will do great.

*Kevin Martin*



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## F.Y.I

- From spring 2008 to 2009 TAFB saw an increase of 4,205 visits to the food bank.
- During April and May we served 3,783 families and a total of 11,706 individuals.
- During this same period we saw 596 new families and 1,631 new individuals.
- We sent out a fundraising letter in May and so far we have received \$13,533. Thank you for all of your support!!!
- The annual Post Office Food Drive brought in over 46,974 pounds. This is over double what we received last year. Many thanks to all the postal carriers and other postal workers plus to all of you who contributed.
- We have added a “donate now” button to our web site.

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

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