

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

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Holiday Baskets and Toys



On November 24, 1080 families were given Thanksgiving baskets and on December 22, Christmas baskets were given to 868 families. Both of these events were held at Holy Family Church with a total of 251 volunteers helping make this possible. These baskets contained the complete fixings for a ham or turkey dinner. The Auburn Food Bank provides all the food and everyone receives the same items in their basket. A grant from a local foundation, a gift from Christian Science Society, and money and food from many of you helped TAFB pay for this food. The following businesses gave discounts on the food purchases: Grocery Outlet, Top Foods, Sysco, Steiber Eggs, Smith Brothers Farm, and Plymouth Poultry. Tharco Company provided us with boxes for packaging the food. On December 19, toys were given to 1568 children. This event was held at Auburn High School and the toys were provided by the Valley Regional Fire Authority who collects the toys throughout the year. Over 100 volunteers served as "elves" helping families with the shopping. Many, many thanks to all of you who made it possible for these three events to occur.



All District School Food Drive and the Feinstein Giveaway Program

Again this year, Jeani Rottle and Steve Christiansen will coordinate the All District School Food Drive which will be held from February 22 until March 5. This involves all schools in the Auburn School District K-12. The schools compete to see which one can bring in the most pounds of food and money. Competition is divided into elementary, middle school, and high school categories. Last year TAFB received 56,568 pounds of food and \$18,869 in cash. The winning schools were Evergreen Heights Elementary, Olympic Middle School, and Mountain View High School. During March and April the Feinstein Foundation will again divide \$1 million among agencies fighting hunger throughout the country. Whatever you donate to The Auburn Food Bank during this time, the foundation will add money to this. Cash, checks, and food can be reported for this purpose. Last year we received \$1,289 from this foundation. Please encourage your children to contribute to the school food drive and help fill the shelves at the food bank.



Director's Report

Today as I open the mail – I am blessed to find unique checks coming through --- one from a store that has told their customers: Give a donation to The Auburn Food Bank and we will make you a special deal on this item....” How creative and wonderful!!! A win win!!!!

Then the next letter:

TODAY I VISITED THE AUBURN FOOD BANK FOR THE SECOND TIME THIS MONTH. I JUST WANTED TO EXPRESS MY GRATITUDE TO ALL THE STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS. YOU LITERALLY KEPT ME FROM STARVING THIS MONTH.

I WAS FIRED FROM MY JOB JUST BEFORE CHRISTMAS. THEY HAD SUSPENDED ME FOR A WEEK BEFORE, AND I HAD A PAYDAY LOAN TO HAVE “CHRISTMAS” SO I DIDN’T HAVE MUCH OF A LAST CHECK – AND NO ONE HIRING JUST BEFORE NEW YEAR’S....I WAS BEGINNING TO PANIC AND AM STILL IN A BIT OF FINANCIAL TURMOIL. I DON’T KNOW HOW OFTEN YOU ARE THANKED FOR THE SELFLESS AND GENEROUS WORK YOU DO, BUT I’M QUITE SURE IT IS NOT NEARLY ENOUGH. PLEASE NOW THAT YOU ARE LITERALLY KEEPING PEOPLE ALIVE AND ABLE TO WORK. I THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR HELPING ME PERSONALLY IN THIS DIFFICULT TIME.

RESPECTFULLY...._____



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I’M COLD --- it’s 12:30 in the morning and I’m in my own home – getting dressed to go out and participate in the National One Night Count of our homeless in our community. If I’m cold now – at 65 degrees - what must my friends, who sleep out in the elements, feel like?

On my way to our “headquarters” – I drive by the food bank.....it’s now 1:15 AM – and I see 8 people standing at our door. At 9:00 AM – we open up for our financial assistance....these people are going to stand, sit and sleep at our doorstep for 8 hours.....desperation is setting in.....

Hard as it is – I drive on by.....and meet our teams to get our instructions and head out to our appointed routes. It’s dark but the full moon helps. We have our flashlights but they don’t seem to be much help. We walk about a 3 mile route – quietly – we don’t want to disturb anyone or scare them.....this is their “home” that we are peeking into.

I’m thinking about “what if this was me....where would I find to sleep that was safe, protected from the wind and rain, and what could I find that would provide some warmth.” I’m not sure I find much as I’m walking along. I wonder about those that I do know that live out here....how are they doing.....what have they found.....

Our count here in Auburn is lower than last year. Surprising since we know we are serving more clients who have lost their homes – but we also know some have friends who have taken them in and sharing expenses so their money can be stretched farther....maybe being able to save to have their own place again.

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Get ready to help our Students! The Auburn School District is hosting their 5th Annual All School Food Drive Competition, starting February 22nd and going through March 5th. This food drive and these students literally “save us”! During a time of the year when people are trying to recoup from their Christmas expenses, and are worried about having to pay taxes, these students bring in enough food and money to help supplement and carry us for about 3 months. The schools have found some incredible ways to compete against each other to inspire the donations! Yes – they want their school to win – but they do understand that the “win” is really for the people we serve here in Auburn. I love attending their assemblies! They inspire me!!!

By the time you read this the Miss Auburn Scholarship Program will be over – they donate their “People’s Choice” gifts to The Auburn Food Bank! By “voting” for a candidate at \$1.00 a vote, the proceeds come to The Auburn Food Bank.....again – another win-win opportunity! I’ve been asked to be a judge this year! What an awesome experience!

Again – I want to thank you --- I can never say it enough. You – your contacts – your willingness to help us spread the word – is invaluable to us. By helping us – you are helping the thousands that come through this door every month. You make it a win-win!

Debbie Christian, Executive Director

TAFB Donors

One of the blessings at the food bank is the wonderful support we receive from the community. Ron Claudon, owner of Valley Buick GMC and RV, is a long time supporter. Part of the mission statement of his business is "to meet and exceed the changing needs of our employees, customers, and community" and he walks his talk.

As a young boy, Ron mowed the lawn of Barbara Cooksey who was the founder of the original food bank, so he learned at an early age about the need of others. Ron's actual involvement started when he met Jack Laverty in Kiwanis and then his wife, Lorianne, became interested and is now a member of the food bank board. Through the years Ron has made monetary donations, encouraged employees to do food drives, and helped keep the food bank vehicles running. He has also helped when a food bank client needed help with a vehicle. Ron, you are much appreciated!



Letter from the President

Dear Supporters of the Auburn Food Bank,

As we begin a new year, I would like to first thank all of those who supported us in 2009. Your support was shown in so many varied and compassionate ways and we could not continue serving the record number of clients we are seeing in these tough economic times without the generosity of this community. We are indeed unique in our ability to come together and reach out a helping hand to those less fortunate.

We always want people to feel everyone can do something to make a difference in the life of another. Whether it is a food drive, a cash donation, or volunteering your time to assist us with the monumental task of ending hunger in Auburn, it all is appreciated and much needed each and everyday.

The new year will bring many things, but a constant for us at the Auburn Food Bank is people in need of our help and we know there will always be people in this community that will be there to alleviate that need even if temporarily. I had a friend ask me recently what I like most about Auburn. My answer was not a place or event, it was the feeling that we live in a community that defines the word help. When help is needed, we always respond beyond what anyone could possibly expect.

So again, I thank you and I look forward to working with all of you in 2010.

Regards,

Dana Hinman, President

Auburn Food Bank Board of Directors

Harvest Breakfast

The sixteenth annual Harvest Breakfast was held on Friday, November 6, at Grace Community Church. The theme of the breakfast was "Feed the Need". A record 548 people attended. For once the feeling of being crowded was wonderful! We raised \$58,468.50 and even though this was not our highest amount, we feel fortunate to have achieved that total in today's economy. Many of you who attended have been doing so faithfully for many years. We want to thank all of you who helped to make this breakfast a success. Remember to mark on your calendar the date for our next Harvest Breakfast: Friday, November 5, 2010.

WISH LIST



- Office copy paper
- Can openers
- Toilet paper
- Paper towels (kitchen roll style)



The Auburn Food Bank
930 18th Place NE
P.O. Box 464
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F.Y.I.

- During the last quarter The Auburn Food Bank served 30,602 individuals and 8,451 households (this includes holiday baskets).
- Approximately one in four people served by TAFB come at least two times a year.

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

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