Extending the Table

by Kevin Glackin-Coley, Executive Director

“In past hard times St. Leo’s has kept me fed when I had nowhere else to turn. I am so thankful Tacoma has this resource, I hope I don’t ever need to fall back on it again, but I will never forget the wonderful people, and the hope that St. Leo’s gave me when I needed it most. THANK YOU from me and my family.”

Last year local artist Jessie Keating installed this amazing mural in the distribution area of our St. Leo Food Bank. It features a long table winding its way against a backdrop of local landmarks and has become the image for our work.

What we do through our various programs is to try and build a bigger table so that all of our neighbors can gather with their families and friends around their own tables and nourish their bodies and spirits. As our mission statement says, “there is more than enough food for everyone if we only learn to share.”

As always, central to all these efforts is your support. Thank you for helping us fight hunger in our community, one person, one family at a time. In 2017 we provided our neighbors with more than 1,600,00 meals.

This year we are committed to helping our clients connect with other services and programs that might help them both meet their basic needs and begin to chart a path to self-sufficiency by partnering with Washington Community Connections and the United Way of Pierce County.

None of what we do would be possible without the support of our many community partners. Our donors and volunteers are at the heart of our work. Thank you for the many ways you support our work. We remain committed to working with you to build a bigger table for our community.
Thank You to Our 2017 Donors

Heartfelt thanks to all of the people listed below who supported the Food Connection with a donation in 2017.

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The Center for Food Preservation Arts

The CFPA strengthens our community by creating opportunities for people of different abilities, socio-economic statuses, and cultural and racial backgrounds to come together around the shared experience of food preservation. They offer education demonstrations that teach food preservation and family nutrition, produce jams and sauces that can be distributed in food banks, and offer a commercial kitchen and tool library for community members.

The CFPA is located within the Food Connection facility. For more information about this partner and their services, go to their website at preservefoods.blogspot.com.
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McKinstry Charitable Foundation
2016 vs 2017 Program Income

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Income Item</th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2017</th>
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<td>Donations</td>
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<td>Grants</td>
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<td>Interest Income</td>
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**Expenses**

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<td><strong>TOTAL EXPENSES</strong></td>
<td><strong>$700,577</strong></td>
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I’m excited to share that this year marks the tenth anniversary of the Children’s Programs, one of the incredible ways you’re impacting the lives of hungry families in Pierce County. In the past decade, these programs have made sure that thousands of children have the food they need to be healthy and successful. They have brought together countless volunteers, educators, and community members with a shared vision of a future where all children have enough food. Finally, they have had a profound impact on my own life.

“All that matters is that the children get fed.” Kevin Glackin-Coley, our Director, gave me that directive seven years ago. I had just moved to Tacoma and started my year as a Jesuit Volunteer, a program where individuals dedicate a year of their life to service and living deeply in a new community. As type A person, I wanted the details for running the program perfectly. Kevin’s words cut through the details to the heart of our mission, and began my journey toward finding a home and a community in which I still live today.

In my year of service, I had the privilege of meeting hundreds of people who make the Children’s Programs possible. I met volunteers who dedicate their days to packing food and delivering backpacks to schools, some of whom still volunteer today. I also worked with countless dedicated educators, people at our schools who devoted even more of their time to the children in their care. Finally, in our summer meals program, I met the children, who gathered in joy and celebration because they knew they would have food.

Since then, the programs have grown and changed to meet even more needs. When I was coordinating these programs, we served about 435 children each weekday during the school year and about 500 children each weekday during the summer. Now the Backpack Program serves more than 1,100 children each weekday. We’ve also added Break Bags, which feeds 2,000 families during the Thanksgiving, winter, and spring breaks, as well as After-School Snacks, which feeds 200 children each week in after-school programs.

I am no longer the coordinator for these programs, but what has always stood out to me are the people who have come together to make it possible. With your support, each backpack and meal goes out to children who now know that they have a community that cares about them and supports them. Though the need is great, our shared work is building a great future, one where no child goes hungry.
“We believe... that God, out of love for us, created a world in which there is enough food for everyone, if only we are willing to share.”

See You There!
June 30th, 2018

Hunger is Real.
Don’t Take a Stand...
Take a Ride!
10, 20, 32, 56 or 75 miles.

A benefit for

Register at
www.wheelstomeals.org

3rd Annual
Hunger Ball
Join us as we eat, drink and dance the night away...
...all in the name of fighting hunger!

October, 2018 (visit www.foodconnection.org for more information)
William Bichsel Hall, St. Leo Parish

www.foodconnection.org