

## Tulalip Charitable Contributions Funds Distribution Report

NAME OF AGENCY: University Food Bank

ADDRESS: 5017 Roosevelt Way NE, Seattle, WA 98105

CONTACT: (206) 523-7060; http://www.udistrictfoodbank.org

GENERAL GOALS: Our mission is to provide individuals and families who are in need with

food and access to a network of community resources that helps them

achieve self-sufficiency.

## SPECIFIC USE FOR THIS AWARD:

I am pleased to announce that on December 1, 2016 we completed the purchase of our new food bank facility. While we began food bank operations in our new facility in mid-July, we have finished the important remaining minor construction items, closed on our loan, and now officially own our new home. Your support helped us reach this exciting milestone, thank you.

For more information please see the attached report from University Food Bank.







December 6, 2016

Marilyn Sheldon Quil Ceda Village 8802 27<sup>th</sup> Ave NE Tulalip, WA 98271

Dear Ms. Sheldon and the Tulalip Tribes:

In August 2015, Tulalip Tribes provided University District Food Bank with an grant in support of our capital campaign. I am pleased to announce that on December 1, 2016 we completed the purchase of our new food bank facility. While we began food bank operations in our new facility in mid-July, we have finished the important remaining minor construction items, closed on our loan, and now officially own our new home. Your support helped us reach this exciting milestone, thank you. Please accept this report of our new facility and our accomplishments and activities here.

Day-to-day food bank operations have taken maximum advantage of our new facilities.

We are actively recruiting new produce donors and already secured a new grocery store partner. We are likely able to add at least one or two new partner stores by early January. Likewise, we accept more fresh and frozen produce from Northwest Harvest each week. Both of these options provide our customers more choice and both would not have been conceivable in our previous location.

We are also 15% busier each week in our walk-in food bank since moving to our new facility. That is more than 125 extra families each week. However, and importantly, average customer wait times have actually declined. And, for the first time ever, the food bank is accessible to all. Individuals in wheelchairs now join us to both shop and volunteer. In October 2016, we assisted almost 5,100 different families which is one of our busiest months ever in the 33 year history of the food bank.

Our next door neighbors at the Seattle Public Library have created a small free library in one corner of the food bank too. They support it with new books each week that have been removed from widespread circulation in the library system. The librarians are looking to refine the collection to meet the interests of our customers, so each week they try a new mix of categories of books. Cookbooks and large print fiction are the most popular options so far.

Our new counseling room is in active use throughout the week. We have King County Public Health Reserve Corps nurses on site one or two times a week for basic health screenings, we

have WithinReach onsite once a week for food stamp and reduced price ORCA card enrollment, and we have had other partners in for cooking demonstrations, voter registration, and health insurance drives.

Street Bean Coffee, our job skills training partner in the corner of the food bank nearest the library, opened for business in October. Their business is still growing so word of mouth referrals to this new location would help. Although they have initially supported this new location by relying on current youth apprentices from their Belltown location, they are looking to expand their training program and hire some University District specific apprentices in the next few months.

Finally, our 2,000 square foot rooftop garden is in full production. Since we didn't move into our facility until mid-July, we weren't able to plant many summer and fall crops. However, we did receive several sizable plant start donations from the UW Farm and Chubby Bunny Farm so we grew some quality heirloom tomatoes, peas, fava beans, and lots of lettuce varieties. This fall we have had strong radish and beet crops plus more greens. Preparations are now being made for our winter growing season. You can follow some of our roof top garden progress via our Instagram account.

Our capital campaign was an ambitious undertaking at its outset that eventually grew more expensive than initially imagined because of our region's robust construction environment and the one year delay in our start because of the housing funding delays. That said, we have made remarkable progress on our \$3.5M capital campaign goal. We've received or been pledged \$3.25M and to enable our purchase we have a bridge loan from Impact Capital for the balance. We will continue to take additional efforts to find new campaign funding but are comfortable knowing that we can pay back our bridge loan through operations over the next three years.

Thank you for your support of our work and for generously supporting the positive future for our organization with a capital campaign gift. I invite you for a personal tour of the food bank to see our new home up close.

Warmest regards, Joe Gruber Executive Director