



# Community Newsletter

May 2018

*Please join us for our 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Open House  
June 24, 2018 1-4 pm with presentations at 2pm*

Twenty-five years ago, four ladies from local churches, Fran Walster, Leela Covey, Phyllis Bresheare and Dorothy Wood, felt a call to address the needs of people in our community. In May 1993 they formed *Make A Blessing Food Bank*, serving about 15 families. The food bank would later be renamed *Maltby Food Bank*, now serving 170 families.

They started their mission in the Maltby Mercantile grocery store on Broadway, which is now under the earth stockpile from the Highway 522 expansion. Fran's and Dorothy's husbands along with Steve Dolan of Boise Cascade were instrumental in repairing the facility. Support was also received from the Woodinville Rotary Club. When the food bank was relocated, the DOT-granted relocation funds were used to upgrade the facility to include storage and distribution areas, and food was temporarily handed out at the Clearview Community Club. Eventually they rented the front room in the current building but soon were able to purchase the entire building due to the generosity of Rick and Tori Hanson and the community.

Last year a large storage building was added behind the facility to accommodate further growth.

In addition to providing food, their goal was to let people know they would receive unconditional love and that someone truly cared for them. That goal remains today - the legacy of these women will live on as the food bank continues to provide for those in need in our community.

In January of 2013 after twenty years of service, Fran Walster retired as the Food Bank Director and her assistant Natalie Oswald became the new Director.

Two members of the current volunteer team have been with the food bank from the beginning-----Pat Walster and Mary Rupert. Their dedication is applauded and recognized as is the hard work of all the volunteers who contribute their time to make the food bank successful.

Not only do we celebrate the anniversary of our beloved food bank, but we celebrate the amazing community that has supported it for twenty-five years. The number of families served and the services to those families have increased over the years and is directly related to the support and involvement of the community. The financial commitment of the personal donors, businesses, schools, service clubs and churches, as well as their donated goods and time is what makes this a great food bank.

One of the clients' favorite services is the Annual Family Christmas Party which includes a full Christmas lunch, gifts for the adults and their children (all gift wrapped), Santa pictures, and a children's craft table. During the year the food bank also provides birthday bags for children, clothing for all ages, winter coats, school supplies, a weekend backpack food program for students, and support for the homeless.

Please join us on June 24 for refreshments and to see what a client "give-out day" looks like. We would love to show you, our neighbors and supporters, what your generosity allows the food bank to provide for its clients.

**The address is 21104 86<sup>th</sup> Ave SE, Snohomish.**