



Feeding our community since 1972

Bellingham Food Bank • Alternatives to Hunger

November 17, 2011

Dear Friend,

Bellingham Food Bank is now the third busiest food bank in Western Washington. One in six Bellingham households uses our food bank on a regular basis. Each month we distribute more than 200,000 pounds of groceries, the equivalent of eight fully-loaded semi-trucks. And 2011 will be the busiest year in our history. Our challenge has never been greater.

While many anti-hunger programs have reduced their services as the need outpaced resources, our staff, volunteers and other community members have responded with inspired energy and innovation. We committed to working harder than ever to provide our families with more of what they need. We partner with local farms to grow and harvest fresh fruits and vegetables, purchase milk and eggs at steep discounts from local sources, and provide basic necessities such as toilet paper and diapers that can't be purchased with food stamps.

Despite all of our work, a few comments provide insight about the condition of the families we serve.

"This food is literally keeping my family alive and allows me to pay the rent. We'd be homeless without the food bank."—James, age 42.

"Now I don't have to steal toilet paper from school."—William, age 8, on the first day we began to regularly hand out toilet paper.

There are hundreds of other stories like these. Underemployed dads visiting the food bank for the first time. Eighty-year-old women waiting in line because of the increasing costs of medication and rent. New mothers balancing their infants while they pick up baby food and other groceries. Disabled veterans having to rely on us for nearly all of their food needs.

I've never been more concerned about the future of the families we serve. We need your support more than ever to continue to meet the need and ensure our neighbors will be fed. Please donate what you can today. I promise we will make the most efficient and effective use of your contribution.

Thank you,


Mike Cohen
Executive Director