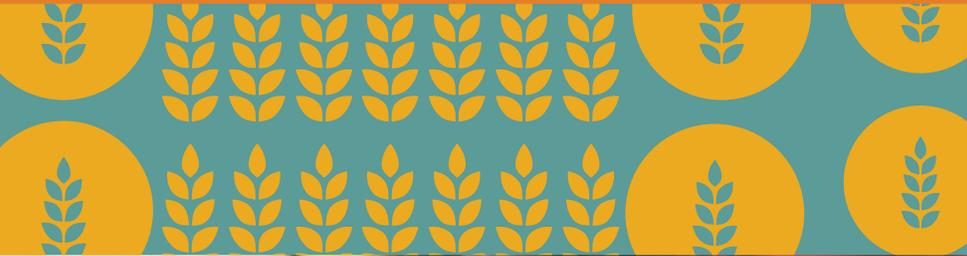


MARCH 2021

# AT THE TABLE

NEWS FROM THE HUNGER SOLUTION CENTER AT FOOD LIFELINE



**FOOD  
LIFELINE**  
HUNGER DOESN'T HAVE TO HAPPEN



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## CHEA FAMILY STORY

*"We need it now since Covid. Before we always had jobs, so we didn't need help."*

— **Sovanna**



Since Covid-19  
40% of families  
are first time  
food bank clients.





# WELCOME TO OUR MARCH 2021 EDITION OF AT THE TABLE

I'm always so eager to share great stories with you each quarter, but this edition seems especially poignant. We've turned the corner on a year of Covid-19 emergency relief efforts, and while that is a huge milestone, the anniversary doesn't begin to tell the story of ongoing hunger and food insecurity in our community. We join in the collective sigh of relief as vaccines become more broadly available, and we welcome the thoughtful approach to getting children back in schools, and re-opening businesses to support economic recovery.

Within the positive improvements, Food Lifeline lives with the reality that recovery for people facing hunger and food insecurity will be years in the making. Households making \$75,000 or less before the pandemic were the hardest hit; they suffered the greatest job losses, and were disproportionately people of color, immigrants, Indigenous communities, and women led households.

We've learned lessons through the pandemic that serve us well as we plan for the uncertain future. We know that we have significant needs in our infrastructure, transportation, and warehouse operations to support the dramatic increase in demand for food assistance.

We've learned from our agency partners that even within emergency response efforts, western Washington communities need access to relevant and culturally appropriate food. We've listened to our clients who have shared with us how meaningful access to nutritious, fresh food is to their lives.

As we focus in the weeks and months ahead, we're leaning in deeply to these learnings as we celebrate the dignity and humanity of the clients we serve. We are so grateful to each of you, our supporters and stakeholders, as you have partnered with us this past year. We could not have journeyed through this past year without you, and we are inviting you to stay with us. Our job is not done, and in many ways, it is just beginning.

Sincerely,

Linda Nageotte  
President & CEO



*“The food is so fresh, it’s so good. I can’t tell you how important that is”*

– **Sovanna and Morgan the Corgi**

## CHEA FAMILY STORY

If you come by the Friday afternoon food distribution at the Hunger Solution Center, you won’t be able to miss Sovanna Chea. She’s the one with the huge smile, the sweet laugh, and the adorable Corgi she calls Morgan. A volunteer favorite, Sovanna can’t say enough about the food she receives for her family of four.

“The food is so fresh, it’s so good. I can’t tell you how important that is,” says Sovanna.

When the Covid-19 pandemic began, her husband was laid off, and she lost her job. Today they are forced to get by on one unemployment check. That’s 25% of their regular income.

**Like so many families during this difficult time, this is the first time the Chea’s have ever had to visit a food bank.**

Volunteers look forward to seeing Sovanna and Morgan the Corgi nearly every Friday. According to Food Lifeline’s Director of Volunteering, Renee’ DeRosier, the duo is always up for a “hello.”

“We need it now since Covid,” says Sovanna. “Before we always had jobs, so we didn’t need help.”

“It warms my heart to see the two of them,” says DeRosier. “Like so many of our guests, she and her husband have worked hard for years, and never had to ask for help. And here she is with a big smile.”

And the feeling is mutual.

“They are so nice,” says Sovanna. “They are really kind. I’m so appreciative for them.”

Sovanna expresses her gratitude to donors. She says, “It’s a blessing. Just truly a blessing. Thank you so very much.”





## POSIE TURNER

Food Lifeline is thankful for our corporate donor, Posie Turner, for their ongoing support of our mission to feed people experiencing hunger, while solving hunger for tomorrow. Posie Turner sells modern socks with inspiring mantras, with the belief in the power of a few good words. When the pandemic began, Posie Turner CEO Leslie Ota sprang into action and implemented a promotion where 30% of sales made on their website in April and May were donated to Food Lifeline. Ota was drawn to Food Lifeline’s approach to ending hunger. “I was impressed with Food Lifeline’s efficiency and the abundance you create with every dollar donated. We are a small company and want to do what we can to support our community. We also appreciate Food Lifeline’s holistic efforts to end hunger by being a part of the solution to address the root causes that still exist.” During Food Lifeline’s Season of Giving, Posie Turner launched another promotion to support our work, where 20% of every pair of socks purchased helped create 16 meals. We would like to extend a grateful thank you to Posie Turner for your tremendous support of Food Lifeline’s Covid-19 emergency response work.

### January 2021 Milliman

“Milliman has chosen to support Food Lifeline because of their commitment to addressing the issue of hunger... Limited access to food is a fundamental obstacle for so many people to live better lives, learn and work...” Leigh Dunlap, Coordinator of Milliman’s volunteer efforts.

### March 2021 McKinstry

“We’ve been fortunate to partner with Food Lifeline over the years on many critical opportunities... from sending new hires to the warehouse to sort food, to regularly staffing a mobile food pantry, to providing loaned equipment for an emergency setup to meet increased need resulting from the pandemic.” Ashley Ruiz, Diversity, Inclusion, & Community Relations Director at McKinstry.





# GET INVOLVED

## 3 Ways to Give

-  Give Time
-  Give Money
-  Give Voice

## JOIN US!



### **VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION WEEK** **April 18-24, 2021**

In honor of National Volunteer Recognition Week, we say thank you to those who have been so dedicated to our

mission. To learn more about volunteering, go to [foodlifeline.org/volunteer](http://foodlifeline.org/volunteer).



### **FOOD FRENZY** **July 16-30, 2021**

Join businesses and organizations large and small in this friendly competition to raise

funds, collect food, and volunteer with Food Lifeline. Help us make 2021 our biggest event yet. For more information about getting involved, visit [foodlifeline.org/food-frenzy](http://foodlifeline.org/food-frenzy).



### **EARLY GIVING STARTS** **APRIL 20TH!**

Join us between April 20th and May 5th for our annual match challenge. This year, we would like to thank our generous \$100,000 match

sponsors including DA Davidson, Flagship Culinary Services, and an anonymous Food Lifeline gift. To donate to Give Big, visit [foodlifeline.org/givebig](http://foodlifeline.org/givebig).



# AGENCY SPOTLIGHT: CHIEF SEATTLE CLUB



Chief Seattle Club provides support and human services to American Indian and Alaska Native people living in Seattle. The Chief Seattle Club Day Center is located in Pioneer Square in downtown Seattle. Their services include housing assistance, food, job training, and healthcare such as traditional healing and mental health.

In response to Covid-19, Chief Seattle Club shifted their meal program to

“Preparing and serving nutritious foods to our community helps heal their mind, body, and spirit.”

— **Fran Tyler,**  
**Executive Chef**  
**Chief Seattle Club**

outdoor service and launched a grocery delivery program for homebound elders. They have also expanded their meal program by more than **60%, from 6,000 to 10,000 meals per month.** Chief Seattle Club purchases traditional foods such as wild rice, blue corn, salmon, shellfish, and wild game, with some support from a King County grant.

As Chief Seattle Club’s Executive Chef Fran Tyler says, “Preparing and serving nutritious foods to our community helps heal their mind, body, and spirit.”

Through their Native Works program, Chief Seattle Club has introduced Sovereignty Farm, where apprentices will learn about land and water stewardship. Sovereignty Farm is an opportunity for elders, apprentices, artisans, and farmers to grow traditional foods for the Chief Seattle Club Day Center.

To learn more about Chief Seattle Club, or to donate, visit [chiefseattleclub.org](http://chiefseattleclub.org).



## FIRST QUARTER AGENCY SPOTLIGHT PARTNERS



CHIEF  
SEATTLE  
CLUB

JANUARY 2020

Chief Seattle Club  
[chiefseattleclub.org](http://chiefseattleclub.org)



FEBRUARY 2021

St. Vincent de Paul, Longview  
[svdplongview.org](http://svdplongview.org)

PIKE MARKET  
Food Bank



MARCH 2021

Pike Place Market  
Senior Center  
and Food Bank  
[pmsc-fb.org/food-bank](http://pmsc-fb.org/food-bank)



*Kelvin has provided over 400 volunteer hours.*

*“My goal is to help people get the things they need.”*

— Kelvin

## GIVING THEIR TIME, VOLUNTEERS DO THE HEAVY LIFTING



After his first volunteer session, Kelvin was amazed to see the amount of food being sorted and mentioned, “It’s interesting to learn that there’s so much food that would otherwise go to waste.” Kelvin finds beauty in volunteering and enjoys seeing people smile, especially while serving food through our weekly community food distributions. When asked about his goals for volunteering at Food Lifeline, Kelvin responded, “My goal is to help people get the things they need.” He has met a lot of great people while volunteering and is happy to connect with those with similar passions.

Kelvin has also given many hours of service in our warehouse. Some of his tasks include inspecting, sorting, and repackaging bulk food into smaller portions for distribution to food banks and meal programs. Bulk foods can include fruits, vegetables, dairy products, canned and dried foods. Kelvin has provided over 400 volunteer hours performing this type of service and plans to continue during the pandemic. Kelvin kindly encourages anyone interested in volunteering at Food Lifeline to join the team to experience the incredible feeling of giving time.



“It’s interesting to learn that there’s so much food that would otherwise go to waste.”



# REP. TANA SENN ROLLS UP HER SLEEVES TO END HUNGER



State Representative Tana Senn shows up to fight hunger. May 2020 was an especially precarious moment in the pandemic. Stay at home orders were disrupting daily life, while food insecurity was on the rise as the pandemic halted food supply chains, closed businesses, and forced many people out of work. Food Lifeline hunger relief efforts, normally aided by thousands of volunteers, were abruptly paused by the pandemic. Only food bank “first responders” and the Washington State National Guard were keeping things going. It was a turbulent time. When we needed her most, Rep. Senn showed up on the front lines of hunger relief.

As soon as Tana learned about Food Lifeline’s emergency food community distributions, she reached out to volunteer. She brought her family and friends to help. They spent many days at our Hunger Solution Center sorting and packing food or working in a parking lot at Bellevue College, loading food into

cars that lined up all the way out the main entrance. When not volunteering, Tana serves as a state representative for the 41st Legislative District (Mercer Island, Bellevue, Sammamish, Issaquah, Renton, Newcastle and Beaux Arts Village.) She has championed legislation supporting affordable and accessible child care, gun reform to keep families safe from violence, pay equity to close the gender gap, and secure access to mental health services and social emotional learning for our kids.



In 2019, Food Lifeline presented Rep. Senn with a Legislative Award for sponsoring a bill to improve the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program. In her community, Rep. Senn rolls up her sleeves to get the job done, whatever the task at hand might be.

Please cut off the reply form below, and return with your gift.

FBF-FLL-19499

## SPRING INTO ACTION! DONATE TO HELP FAMILIES FACING HUNGER

**I want to help families facing hunger receive the food they need to thrive!**

*Enclosed is my gift of:*

- \$35 to help create 175 meals
- \$100 to help create 500 meals
- \$50 to help create 250 meals
- \$\_\_\_\_\_ to help create as many meals as possible
- My check payable to **Food Lifeline** is enclosed.

Mail to: 815 S 96th Street, Seattle, WA 98108-4934

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

STREET: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY/STATE/ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

MY EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

**FOOD LIFELINE**

I would like to make a one-time donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ using my credit card.

I would like to have my monthly contribution of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ deducted from my checking account. *(I have included a voided check.)*

Please charge my credit card.



Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

FROM

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