

To the UBC Community and 'Alumni':

This year, 2021, has evolved to a new normal that we could never imagined a year ago. A pandemic that continues, high vaccination rates in our community, face masks everywhere – we are all still struggling to redefine what 'normal' is and will be. And for the least advantaged among us in NE Seattle, this year is even more challenging, with housing insecurity, job insecurity, and inflation for most basic needs. We can see it in the length of the lines outside the University District Food Bank (UDFB) up the street. For the past 14 years, the University Business Center community has come together with our year-end fund drive for the UDFB, and unfortunately the need has never been greater.

The UDFB fills an important safety net to households all over NE Seattle, from Capitol Hill to Lake City. Each week, the Food Bank serves over 2,000 families through:

- A grocery-style market, open 4 days a week, including vegetables, fruit, meat, grains, dairy, and prepared meals – during COVID, the market is now a special-order/take-out grocery to ensure social distancing.
- Home delivery program (about 450 households each week – nearly double the volume pre-COVID)
- Packs-for-Kids Program –providing weekend backpacks of food for about 600 kids
- Weekly Pantries at Magnuson Park and North Seattle College – focusing on the low-income housing community in Sand Point and students at the college (about 150 households each week)
- The food bank's 2,000 sq. ft vegetable garden on the roof their building, supplementing the organization's vegetable purchases throughout the year
- The Community Connector program, working one-on-one with clients to connect them with the resources that help them (housing, employment, health, food assistance, etc.)

COVID has been a strain on the UDFB and the community it serves. Due to the operational changes required by COVID, the food bank has hired more workers. Food purchases have increased (and will probably increase more with the closure of the Safeway on Brooklyn, which was one of our donor markets). Higher living costs, for both food and housing, has placed additional strains on households and we see this every day at the food bank.

The UDFB relies on individual donors for most of its funding. While the local grocers are key supporters of the food bank, the UDFB will spend over \$500,000 on food purchases to supplement their food donations this year (up substantially over 2020 with inflation hitting us hard). Our donations will be critical to helping the UDFB meet the needs in our community. Let's do our part to ensure that no one in our community faces hunger.

Last year we were able to raise about \$9,000 from about a third of the people working at the UBC. Imagine how much we could contribute if everyone pitched in what they could. Cash, check and credit card donations are accepted (donor envelopes are at the front desk) – all are accepted at the front desk. I ask you to make our fundraising efforts even more impactful this year!



Michael Goodheim  
UDFB Co-President and UBC 'Alumnus'