Why We Give, with Jerry Goodwin

by Alane Basco-Yu

As a volunteer with the Knights of Columbus, Jerry takes pride in working with the community. Jerry and the Knights collected over 2,000 lbs of donated food and supplies for Fishline this year through their efforts. They have provided coats for the children of North Kitsap and ensured full bellies in the community throughout the 2020 holiday season.

Jerry has lived in Poulsbo for past twenty-seven years, after retiring from a career in management. He will be the first to tell you how much marrying his wife, Shirley, changed his life. She was a longtime volunteer and donor to Fishline. Together they served this community in myriad ways. For Shirley it was all about helping Fishline. When she passed away, Jerry wanted to ensure that Fishline continued receiving Goodwin support. Through the Knights of Columbus, he has bolstered and supported dozens of food drives for Fishline. He and his daughter continue to donate, working diligently to ensure that those in need in North Kitsap continue to receive support.

Jerry shares, “Fishline means everything to me, and I want it to be here when I leave this earth.” He adds that he does not want to change the world, just the world that he is a part of. We are honored to have the Goodwin’s support. Thank you, Jerry.

Full Stockings on Christmas Day!

by Danielle Wasa

Our Christmas Child Stocking Program was an absolute success this year, COVID-19 and all. We were thrilled to be able to help over three hundred children in North Kitsap wake up with gifts under the tree. We in turn were able to support Poulsbo’s local businesses through our “Holiday Bucks” program. This allowed families to shop at participating stores in the area to purchase gifts. Thank you Tucy’s, Liberty Bay Books, Toys, Etc, Indigo Plum, and Heart 2 Heart Knitting for joining the program.

We have heard from families filled with gratitude and joy as a result of the Christmas Child program. Here is a note we received the week we started handing out Holiday Bucks...

"Dear Fishline Staff,
Thank you for the generous gift cards!!! This has been a challenging time for us, and we appreciate you so much. You have no idea how much your help has meant."

Our team is happy to support the families of the North Kitsap community through this holiday season. COVID-19 brought hardships and we are incredibly thankful for the support that the community members have shown to this program. Without your kindness and generosity, we would not have been able to impact so many throughout North Kitsap.

As we look to 2021, to the light at the end of the tunnel and the possibilities for our organization, I take pride in your strength and resilience through this past year. We have forged through this unprecedented time of the pandemic and without the community’s tenacity and generosity we could not have supported those in need. At 2020 draws to a close, we at Fishline are in awe of the immense amount of food drives, supply drives, ad financial donations we have received in support of our work. Your passion to see this pandemic through bolstered us to start new programs and serve new needs.

As we look ahead, I am excited to step in 2021 and to the countless others who have been our neighbors, thank you. I am excited to step in 2021 with you, and to deliver stability and hope to so many families in North Kitsap County.

In gratitude,
Lori Maxim
Executive Director
It is with both sadness and joy that we bid goodbye to Marge Johnson, Fishline's Business Manager, as she entered retirement on December 22, 2020.

Marge has been steadfast in supporting Fishline over the past two-and-a-half years, but most notably when she stepped into the role of Interim Executive Director in the midst of a global pandemic this year. While Fishline was doing an active search for a new Executive Director we found a jewel in Marge.

Her background as a leader and her tenacity brought much needed stability and passion to Fishline in a time of crisis where she never skipped a beat. Marge stepped up to the plate and agreed to fill in for what she famously called a 120-day temporary position that turned into a six-month stint.

She completely revamped the market and gained the respect of all around her. Nothing slowed her down, she was often seen filling boxes alongside staff and volunteers, meeting with other food banks, while setting up and following protocols for COVID-19.

Her guidance and persistence helped many North Kitsap residents immensely during an unparalleled time. It has been an honor for our team to have worked with her and we wish her the best in her retirement.

Saying Goodbye to Marge, our Tenacious Business Manager

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