Feeding the furry

Pets can get food, supplies

Helping families means helping all members of the family, including the four-legged ones.

Thanks to our staff and army of volunteers, Fishline offers food and supplies for dogs and cats (and, sometimes, the occasional hamster or bird).

“We serve roughly around 350 to 400 people a week,” says Laura Olson, Fishline’s Market Manager. “I would guess about a quarter to half, depending on the day, will get pet food.”

In addition to food (both dry and wet) for cats and dogs, Fishline offers wee pads, kitty litter and, of course, treats (who’s a good boy?).

One volunteer who has been really helpful is Dan Ball. In addition to spending his own money, Dan drives to the pet stores to pick up the supplies. Because some food can’t be sold after an expiration date or maybe a customer returns a nearly full bag after Rosco turned up his nose at the flavor, “I found these stores are happy to see me come and remove their donation,” Dan says.

Some of the stores that have helped include Petco in Poulsbo and Mud Bay and PetSmart in Silverdale.

Pet food, like this pallet (left) donated by the Poulsbo Knights of Columbus Council 8297, are bagged up into individual portions (above left) and taken home by people like Margaret Folta (above right).
Sharing the love

After a dark winter of COVID claustrophobia and only seeing the world through a Zoom window, it’s finally spring. And the good news for Fishline is the Swank Grow and Share Farm is once again planting lots of vegetables and herbs to feed our families.

This is the fourth year Russell and Ardis Swank have made their garden near Silverdale available to Fishline. “Not only do they let us use their land, but they also provide the water and the electricity for the timbers,” says Leigh Wojcik, the lead volunteer at Swank Grow and Share Farm.

The bounty that comes from the land is impressive. Last year alone, volunteers were able to harvest more than 6,500 pounds of produce. Planning and planting for this year has started. With greenhouse help from Nikki Johanson at Pheasant Fields Farm, across Clear Creek Road from the Swanks, there already are trays of broccoli, cauliflower, spinach, lettuce, cabbage, dill, peppers and cilantro (and she’s started tomato and bell peppers in her basement).

Pussy willows are starting to bloom and the scent of spring is in the air. But for hungry, displaced families, it’s still a time of stress and uncertainty. Since the start of the year, we have seen a steady increase in the number of new families requesting food, rent, and utilities assistance.

Our community members have continued to care for their neighbors by donating stimulus checks, adding dollars to their grocery bills at Central Market, and dropping off food donations to our Food Bank. Not to mention our amazing volunteers who keep us running (even in the snow).

Our business partners have played a huge role. West Side Pizza has donated more than 900 meals. Hill Moving delivers our Commodities and the nonprofits is your stimulus.

It pained Fishline to indefinitely postpone the annual auction, our largest fundraising event, due to the pandemic. As a result, we have a large financial deficit to overcome over the remainder of the year.

On April 20, the Kitsap Great Give event will be held online. If you donated at either event last year, we hope you will consider donating what you can to Fishline during this special event.

Wishing you and your family a healthy and happy spring.

Lori Maxim
Executive Director

How to help
To learn more about this project or to help volunteer at the garden, contact Lidia, our volunteer manager, at volunteer@fishlinehelps.org or 360-208-0102.

Captain’s log

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Chamber Easter Egg Parade
April 3, 10:00 am - 2:00 pm
Starts at Poulsbo Village. Come by Fishline for treats for the kids.

Captain’s Coffee Chat
April 6, 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm
Meet our executive director and bring your ideas and questions. To register, go to bit.ly/Fishlinechat

Fishline Annual Community Meeting
April 15, 5:30 pm - 6:30 pm
Zoom meeting to learn what’s new at Fishline and meet our executive director and board. To register, go to bit.ly/Fishlinehelps.org

Volunteer Appreciation
April 23, 4:30 pm - 6:00 pm
Great prizes and gifts given out at Fishline to honor our amazing volunteers.

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Fishline is proud to be a part of this year’s Kitsap Great Give.

Sponsored by the Kitsap Community Foundation, the Great Give is a 24-hour online event designed to benefit more than 300 local nonprofits.

On April 20, go to kitsapgreatgive.org and click through to find Fishline. The site also will be available for early giving beginning April 1.

The big advantage for you and the nonprofits is your donation will be boosted by bonus funds. And Fishline also can win prizes throughout the day.

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