



# THE FRONT BURNER

SPRING 2024

*A Thurston County Food Bank Publication*

## Volunteer Spotlight — Rhonda!

Everything happens for a reason. Spend a couple of minutes with Rhonda and you are sure to hear this phrase, which she repeats regularly, much like a personal mantra. Driven by her faith and her commitment to community service, Rhonda puts in more hours than just about any other volunteer at our Olympia Food Pantry. You will typically find Rhonda back in our kitchen, bagging up pizza, or out on the floor handing out eggs or canned goods to our clients. Wherever she works, she brightens up our building with her optimism and sunny disposition.



Rhonda repacking pizza for TCFB!

At the Thurston County Food Bank, we strive to make space for people with a wide range of abilities. Our approach empowers a diversity of community members to support our work and provides us with the opportunity to work with amazing people such as Rhonda. We regularly host students from Tumwater School District's LINC program, Olympia School District's Transition Academy, and North Thurston Public Schools' V.O.I.C.E. program. These programs provide job and life skills to local neurodivergent students.

In addition to her regular duties at the Food Bank, Rhonda also acts as an excellent role model for youth. When

not working at the Food Bank, Rhonda enjoys pampering her dog, Zoe.

Everything happens for a reason. Whatever the reason was that brought Rhonda to the Thurston County Food Bank, we sure are glad to have her!

by David C.



*Thank You*  
to our 2024  
*Board of*  
*Directors*

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**TCFB is CLOSED:**

Monday, May 27  
for Memorial Day

Wednesday, June 19  
for Juneteenth

**Join Our Amazing  
Volunteer Team!**

## Volunteer Shifts:

### Olympia's Food Pantry:

M,W,F: 7:45-12, 11:45-4  
Closed every 3rd Monday  
starting March 18!  
DavidC@tcfb.org

### Lacey's Food Pantry:

T,Th: 9-12:30, 12-3  
2nd Wed: 3-7pm  
ArynE@tcfb.org  
**Farm Stand:** Sat 9:30-1:15  
farmstand@tcfb.org

### Tumwater Warehouse:

T,W,Th: 9-12, 1-4  
JoeR@tcfb.org

### Satellites, Mobiles, Home Deliveries:

RebekahG@tcfb.org

### Kiwanis Gardens

JamesW@tcfb.org

### Gleaning

MackenzieM@tcfb.org

## Information & Application:

[tcfb.org/volunteer](https://tcfb.org/volunteer)



# Ways to Support

## The Stamp Out Hunger® Food Drive is May 11th!

Did you know? The annual Letter Carriers' Stamp Out Hunger® Food Drive is the largest one-day food drive in the nation. We invite you to participate with TCFB in this fun, impactful and rewarding event —

**Saturday, May 11, 2024!**

**How can you help?**



**TCFB is recruiting groups  
and individual volunteers!**

### 2 Shifts for Drivers:

Adults age 18+ drive on mail routes with a neighborhood map to collect food donations. Each driver needs at least one support person in the vehicle who can lift 25 pounds or more.

### 3 Shifts for Food Sorters:

At each of the sites below, sorters help to unload, sort, pack and build pallets of food donations.

### Three Locations:

Lacey P.O. | Downtown Olympia P.O. | Our Tumwater Warehouse

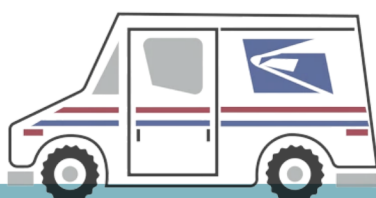
Sign up to help at: [bit.ly/volunteer-appl-tcfb](https://bit.ly/volunteer-appl-tcfb)

For more information, contact:

**Olympia:** davidc@tcfb.org | **Lacey:** aryne@tcfb.org

**Tumwater:** joer@tcfb.org

**Thank You!!**



# News and Happenings

**Our Lacey Farm Stand opens for the season on May 4th!**



- Come shop!
- Come volunteer!
- Delicious fresh, local produce!
- Yummy recipes!
- Doesn't count as a monthly visit!

**Saturday, May 4 & 25, then select Saturdays • 11 am–1 pm**

Farm Stand open dates are posted on our website and social media.

## HUNGER WALK

**Sunday, May 5**

**3:00 PM**

**Huntamer Park**

618 Woodland Square  
Loop SE, Lacey

**Live music!**

Benefits hunger-relief  
efforts by

**The Community Kitchen  
and TCFB!**



SCAN to Join the  
Food Bank's Team

**TCFB  
TRUDGERS!**



Learn more at [app.99pledges.com/fund/hunger](http://app.99pledges.com/fund/hunger)

**GIVE** what you can. **WALK** if you want.

# Program Spotlight

by Anna-Min K.

We hope everyone had a wonderful spring break— perhaps trying out some of the fun activities from our **Spring Break Bags**! For years, we have provided Spring Baskets filled with goodies to help families celebrate Easter. This year, we combined this tradition with spring break activities through our Spring Break Bags. Whether these bags are used to help lighten the Easter Bunny's load or to simply provide activities for kids to enjoy during the break, our hope is to bring smiles to children's faces and create special memories for families in our community.



Ronda, Corie and Mike help to distribute Spring Break Bags.

**We provided 933 Spring Break Bags to children this year — almost a 20% increase from last year!**



Tuesday was a very busy day at Lacey — we served the same number of children in one service day than we served last year over the span of two days! Our ability to provide this many spring bags is a remarkable reflection of our community's generosity. Members from the Washington Stars Quilt Guild and Quilters Quorum continued to play a huge role in the SBB Program, donating the beautifully-sewn spring bags and volunteering during distribution week. When we were running low on supplies at Lacey, a couple volunteers ran out after their shift to replenish our bubbles and chalk supply.

Two more shout outs go to the small team of ladies who took charge of soliciting donations, and to our donors. This year, the team visited local businesses and organizations to ask for donations, and successfully brought in enough seeds and pots for each child and teen, and enough coloring books and colored pencils for each teen! We truly could not have pulled off another successful distribution week without the generosity of the following community members:

- Olympia Ace Hardware
- Olympia Home Depot
- Vantage Physicians
- The Barn Nursery
- Dermatology and Allergy Specialists of Olympia
- Lacey Fred Meyer
- Lark
- Olympia Panera Bread
- Amazon Web Services
- North Beach Senior Center
- Faith-based organizations
- Schools
- Individual donors



Thank You 

Need information about our food and non-food services? Interested in volunteering or making a donation? Visit our website at [tcfb.org](http://tcfb.org) or call us at 360-352-8597.

