

ISSAQUAH

Food & Clothing Bank

Issaquah Food & Clothing Bank Volunteering with Harvest Issaquah





Issaquah Food and Clothing Bank
Volunteers – Outreach Roles
Harvest Issaquah: Introduction
Last Updated 3/22/2017

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Welcome!

We are so glad you're interested in becoming a Volunteer for the Harvest Issaquah program! In this section, you can expect to learn about the Issaquah Food and Clothing Bank, the Harvest Issaquah program, and the roles of Food Bank Ambassadors and Glean Team Members (*hint*: You are needed and loved!).

About the IFCB

The Issaquah Food and Clothing Bank provides support to 400+ families each week. We provide one-on-one Case Management support, Financial Assistance, Groceries to Go, Lunch for the Break, Summer Lunch, Holiday Gift Barn, Tools4School, toiletries, childhood supplies, supplies for homeless people, and more to local families in need of assistance. Our goal is to best serve each individual's basic while taking a holistic approach with our additional services and programs.

Mission: The mission of the Issaquah Food and Clothing Bank is to provide basic needs to our community members, in order to promote self-sufficiency.

Vision: A hunger-free community

Values: *Respect-* We believe in treating everyone with respect.

Support- We believe in nurturing and supporting clients and each other.

Acceptance- We believe in being non-judgmental and accepting.

Equity- We believe in treating others with kindness and fairness.

Partnership- We believe that through collaboration and partnerships we can accomplish so much more.

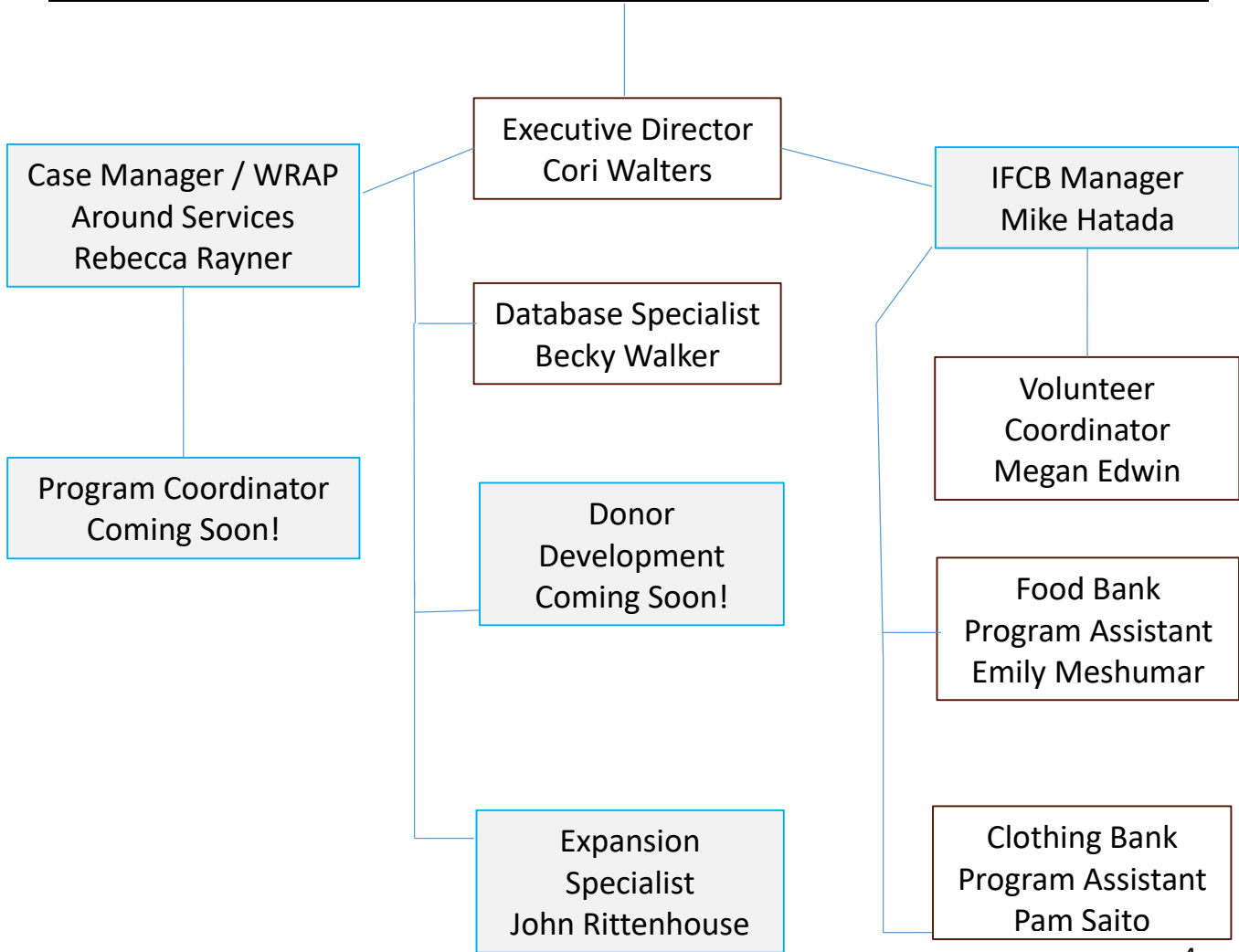
The Harvest Issaquah program:

The Harvest Issaquah program began as an urban gleaning initiative in 2014. The IFCB worked with an arborist assess the health of fruit trees, and volunteer teams to harvest fruit from trees located in public parks and on private property. This saved the food from being wasted while providing the freshest fruit available to our customers. We were hooked!

In 2015, the program expanded to include a presence at the Issaquah Farmers Market and also began searching for fresh eggs to give to our customers. In 2016, the program expanded again to include weekly presence at the Sammamish and Issaquah Farmers Markets, weekly gleans, and more requests for donations of fresh produce using the Harvest Issaquah Facebook page.

Issaquah Food and Clothing Bank 2017 Organization Chart

Board of Directors:		
Scott Dahlquist, Board Chair	Tom Ehlers, Vice Chair	Jim Pankanin, Treasurer
Jean Philippe Bagel, Secretary	Kashif Zahoor	Brent Kokoskin
Jim Merrill	Laura Asbell	Kelly Schmidt
Alex Garrard	Sam Metzler	Ruben Nieto
	Deborah Flynn	Jennifer Valente



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IFCB SPECIAL PROGRAMS

[Ways We Help](#)

We have several seasonal programs we run at the Issaquah Food and Clothing Bank. These include the Summer Lunch Program, Tools 4 School, Holiday Gift Barn, Lunch for a Break, Birthday Toy Bank, and Dental Van.

[Holiday Gift Barn:](#)

- Pickering Barn is turned into a department store for a week in December, allowing families in the Issaquah School District to shop and choose gifts for their children
- Gift wrapping and child care is available to help parents keep gifts a secret until Christmas Day.

[Lunch For the Break:](#)

- The program runs during Winter Break, Mid-Winter Break and Spring Break each school year.
- Helping to bridge the food gap during long school breaks, Lunch for the Break provides a box of food for each school age child in a family.

[Summer Lunch Program:](#)

- Provides a week's worth of breakfast, lunch and snacks for school age kids living in our four Food Bank zip codes (98027, 98029, 98059 and 98075). Families receive one bag of food per school-age child.

[Tools 4 School:](#)

- Provides a new backpack filled with new school supplies for kids in the Issaquah School District
- Event is held at Eastridge Church and includes a Health and Wellness Fair and Resource Alley

[Issaquah Power Packs:](#)

- Provides a weekend bag of kid-friendly food to help end weekend hunger in Issaquah Schools
- Pilot program is serving Clark Elementary and Liberty High School

[Dental Van:](#)

- Are you in need of free dental care? If so, [email Rebecca](#) to be added to the waiting list for the next Issaquah van.

[How to Access Our Services:](#)

All events have online sign-up available, plus hard copies at the Food and Clothing Bank.

Summer Lunch is open to all families in our four Food Bank zip codes (98027, 98029, 98059 and 98075), but the other special programs are for families in the Issaquah School District.

A landing page for our programs can be found at <https://www.issaquahfoodbank.org/special-programs/>.

Any additional questions can be directed to Rebecca@issaquahfoodbank.org, or call 425-392-4123 x11.



VOLUNTEERING WITH THE ISSAQUAH FOOD & CLOTHING BANK

Getting Started

Welcome! We're always looking for great new volunteers to join the IFCB volunteer team.

To get started, please register through the volunteer page of our website at www.issaquahfoodbank.org/volunteer/.

You should receive a welcome email almost immediately after registering as a volunteer. That email will contain your personal login credentials for our volunteer dashboard and an invitation to attend a new volunteer orientation at your earliest convenience. If you do not see that email in your inbox, please check your spam box since spam filters tend to eat our emails. If it's still not there, please email megan@issaquahfoodbank.org and she'll make sure you get it.

New volunteer orientations are required and are held every Monday (4-4:30 pm) and Friday (9-9:30 am & 1-1:30 pm) which the exception of holidays. Orientations last approximately 30 minutes and count towards community service hours. You'll get a tour of the food bank, learn about all our cool specials programs, we'll cover safety stuff and food bank policies, and you'll have the opportunity to ask lots of questions.

You can sign up for an orientation using the volunteer dashboard. Just login and sign-up.

Quick Recap

1. [Register](#) as a volunteer.
2. Sign up for a new volunteer orientation using the volunteer dashboard. (Login credentials will be emailed to you when you register and a link to the dashboard will be included in that email.)

Use the volunteer dashboard to schedule the volunteer shifts that work best for you *after* attending the orientation.

The Role of Food Bank Ambassadors

Last year, Food Bank Ambassadors were present at almost every Farmers Market. They built mutually-beneficial, positive relationships (and therefore goodwill!) with vendors by hanging signs suggesting customers buy extra for the Food Bank; staffed a booth featuring information about the Issaquah Food and Clothing Bank's programs, connected with shoppers by passing out fliers and answering questions, and ultimately collected **14,903 pounds** of fresh produce and eggs for our customers!

The happiest Food Bank Ambassadors are open and friendly ("People" people), knowledgeable about IFCB programs and needs, excellent communicators, and very organized. It takes a team of 2-3 to collect donations at the end of the Sammamish Farmers Market and a team of 5-6 to coordinate collections from the Issaquah Farmers Market (depending upon where you choose to volunteer); so being able to work collaboratively with others will be helpful as well.

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But fear not! This is a super-fun position which allows you to meet new people, learn about food, enjoy the weather, and shop the market(s) while reducing food waste and doing good work for IFCB customers. We'll discuss the details of logistics during in the Food Bank Ambassador break-out session at 3:00 pm.

The Role of the Glean Team

In 2016, the Issaquah Food and Clothing Bank sent "Glean Teams" out to harvest fruit and vegetables from local orchards and gardens. Working in teams of 2-5 people, Glean Teams rescued **almost 2,000 pounds** of food by bringing it to the Food Bank's store for customers to use in their homes!

Glean Teams are typically a crew of 4-6 Gleaners who go on-location to harvest fresh fruit and veggies from public lands and private residences. Building relationships with donors and fellow volunteers is fun and easy as the team works together to harvest selected crops. Modeling ladder safety and safe lifting, being able to recognize quality produce for quick picking, and organizational skills are helpful for Glean Team Members.

Safety First!

Every volunteer should have a strong understanding of **ladder safety** and **proper lifting** techniques, so safety will be the focus of our next section.

If you are inspired to become a **Lead Food Bank Ambassador** or **#GleanTeam Leader**, you'll also need to understand van use safety and policies, as well as meet with Mike Hatada to turn in required paperwork (included in the Vehicle Use Policy) so you can get authorized to use the Food Bank's van.