



WASHINGTON STATE
UNIVERSITY EXTENSION
Kitsap County



KITSAP HARVEST 2022

QUOTES

Comments from Kitsap Harvest recipients:



Produce has helped me to eat better.

Feeling blessed to be getting the food as I have been hungry in the past."



I really need them and appreciate it so much, I really depend on them"



I feel grateful although I am embarrassed about my increased need for help. I've taken pride in being independent."



Thankful they come to our building. Sometimes it is hard to leave apartment."



Grateful for the group and the work involved."

ISSUE

Equitable access to fresh nutritious foods and healthy activity is a public health concern as fresh food access is directly tied to a myriad of health problems including diabetes, increased rates of obesity and other diet related diseases. When produce is made readily available, families, individuals and seniors benefit by making it a part of their meals and health plan. According to the Emergency Food Assistance Program Closeout Report: State Fiscal Year 2019, "Client demographics by age group have changed dramatically over the past decade. Specifically, the percentage of senior clients has increased from 12.59% to 20.3%. The percentage of children has decreased from 39.16% to 32.37% and, adults have stayed consistent at around 48%." There is a continued trend of seeing increases in new senior clients primarily as baby boomers continue to leave the workforce and find themselves on a fixed income. That growing senior population along with the increasing need for equitable services for all, necessitates us to provide more resources and food access options. The driving focus is reducing barriers to access by meeting people where they are at. That means looking at transportation, scheduling, and the qualifying of services as often experienced by people in need.

RESPONSE

The Kitsap Harvest program was created under WSU Kitsap Extension in response to SNAP program deliverables, emphasizing healthy outcomes in Kitsap County by reaching SNAP-eligible individuals where they live, shop, play. Kitsap Harvest works on providing consistent food to those in need throughout the community, with an emphasis on fresh and local.



BY THE NUMBERS

Food collection:

- Urban Gleans (10 gleans)
1,004 lbs.
- Grow A Row 4,401 lbs.
- Other 1,158 lbs.
- KCD GRACE partnership
5,069 lbs.
- Foodbank Recovery / Grocery
Rescue 89,945 lbs.
- Received a total of 101,577
lbs.

Pounds of food recovered & distributed:

- Distributed 9,0435 lbs.
⇒ 50,460 lbs. were fresh
produce
- Served a total of 32 sites
⇒ 23 organizations
consistently every other
week
- Served approximately 1,145
individuals
- Pounds of food diverted to
livestock: 9,079 lbs.

Volunteers:

- 130 active volunteers
- 5,128 hours given
- 21 dedicated sorting
volunteers on Thursday's and
Tuesday's
- Two driving teams for
distribution
- 8 Dedicated donation stations
for Grow-A-Row project
- 10 Dedicated Grow A Row
Committee Members
- 3 dedicated route drivers for
Grow-A-Row
- 5 Board Members – dedicated
monthly meetings

IMPACTS

Kitsap Harvest, a newly formed, federally recognized nonprofit, continues to be supported by WSU Kitsap Extension as it builds sustainability in board functions and operations. The program is provided a dedicated staff person through Extension to assist the organization in moving to the next phase of sustainability. In 2022, the goal was to work towards assisting in the foundational pieces of the program, including board recruitment, staffing and creation of replicable procedures. Work in these areas included:

- Assisting the board of directors in finalizing its 501c3 federal nonprofit status.
- Worked with board of directors on defining roles, vision, financial accounting and annual budgeting procedures.
- Assisting the board of directors with increasing program capacity, including staffing. The program was able to onboard and utilize Washington Service Corps VISTA's and a Harvest Against Hunger VISTA to assist in warehouse and Grow-A-Row coordination.
- Utilized COVID relief funding to provide additional support through a part-time WSU staff working on volunteer coordination for the organization.
- Growth of Grow-A-Row: Grow-A-Row (GAR) is a program under Kitsap Harvest that encourages the community to get involved and donate their homegrown produce. In 2022 the program was able to onboard a Harvest Against Hunger VISTA to help run the operation of donation stations at the farmers markets, retail markets and neighborhood sites.
- Increased warehouse operations: The program was able to onboard two Washington Service Corps VISTA's to assist with the collection and distribution of food at the warehouse.
- Kitsap Harvest moved nearly as many pounds of food this year as it did in previous years despite a challenging growing season.



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