LOAVES AND FISHES

Thoughts from the Executive Director Or Ponderings of a Perplexed Person...

April 2009



20 years ... And what I have learned is that the ocean refuses no river...

I know... I know... We turn on the news and we hear about jobs being lost, houses being foreclosed, the economy going to hell in a hand basket. Those are the kind of things you usually hear from us in our newsletters as we desperately appeal for your help in keeping our boat afloat. And I guess that is one of the reasons why we are here. Not only to take care of those who may lose their jobs, lose their homes, lose their hope, but also as a beacon to remind us all that the light always circles a full 360 degrees.

OPERATION: Sack Lunch celebrates it's **20th year** of operations in **2009.** Some of you have been with us as supporters since our inception, others are newcomers...All of you are the reason we have been able to weather so many storms and provide so many meals, and so much love.

We spring forward, we march forth, we never say die. And in the most frantic and stressful moments we remind ourselves why it is we are here. When a meal is prepared and served with care and love it nourishes far more than the body. It has the power to change a life.

During these strenuous economic times we continue to do what we have done so well for the past 20 years. **We trust**... We trust that we will remain stable enough to help those whose stability has faltered. We trust that you will help us. It is as simple as that.

OPERATION: Sack Lunch continues to provide outstanding service to the community; offering both service to those in need and opportunity for those with a desire to help. There are many in need... There are many who desire to help. The following testimonies from our clients speak louder than any appeal I can make.

Thank you for your continuing generosity. Thank you for helping us to help them.

beverly graham

My name is **Bryant Tolliver**, I am "homeless" and have been living on the streets of Seattle for the past year and four months. Being homeless, meals are important. OPERATION: Sack lunch has provided me and thousands of other homeless men and women, like myself, with the opportunity of having a balanced, safe, clean, and healthy meal. I am blessed to be able to have breakfast, lunch, and dinner seven days a week, by the love and grace of OPERATION: Sack Lunch and the service at Seattle's Outdoor Meal Site, and by their many volunteers who commit themselves each and every day to serve and feed the homeless.

Slim-

a homeless person who volunteers from time-to-time for OPERATION: Sack Lunch helps pick up trash, loads and unloads the OSL meals from the van into the meal site. Thank you!!

Chocolate-

Due to my street addictions, OPERATION: Sack Lunch helps me regain my strength when I am ill, and haven't eaten in days. Thanks OPERAION: Sack Lunch I am grateful for all that you do.

Roger-

Homeless and new to downtown Seattle, no money and no food, when I asked where I could find a free decent meal, the first place people told me was the meal site under the bridge. Thanks OPERATION: Sack Lunch.

Cowboy-

I am homeless and work during the day at a junkyard. I be so tired and hungry when I get off, if it wasn't for the meal site under the bridge at night and in the morning, I don't know what I would do.

Lora-

Being a homeless woman, I am so glad there is a safe place for me to eat during the day and at night. Plus with a weak bladder OPERATION: Sack Lunch provides me with a place to use the restroom quick and easy.

Rico-

Coming from Mexico looking for work living on the streets with no food or food stamps, I used to fly signs for food (stand on the corner with signs)until I heard about a meal site under the bridge that feeds meals seven days a week. You guys "rock".

Cuba

Wet hungry and tired one night, if it wasn't for OPERATION :Sack Lunch and its volunteers, who help me get a change of clothes, blankets and a hot meal, I might have ended up sick, or something even worse. They supply a great service to the homeless.

Trendy-

Young girls like myself need a safe place to eat, when living on the streets. I tell all my homeless friends about the meals served under the bridge by OSL.

New York-

I been eating at this meal site for years. OPERATION: Sack Lunch is the best.

Heather-

What else can I say; OPERATION: Sack Lunch has saved me time-after-time from going hungry in my time of need.

David-

I am a disabled homeless veteran, and it is OPERATION: Sack Lunch that feeds me breakfast and lunch. "GOD" bless you guys.

Steve-

I rely on OPERATION: Sack Lunch for my breakfast and lunch before work and on my lunch break. OPERATION: Sack Lunch does so much good for the homeless community.





Mission: Nutrition Soulful eyes and Eager achievers. Chef Patti Howard Nutritional Consultant and Staff Educator

There are chefs, AC, Sekayi, Taran, Myshia, Elmer and Michael, who gather in the OPERATION: Sack Lunch kitchen and hustle to perform the time of their lives...feeding those who find themselves in the margins of society. The magic here is that these guys are discovering they don't just want to create food, they want to create an experience with food. They want to create the memory in our guests that they are holding the vibration of well-being. Each take pride in the mission of the OSL organization that not just any food will do. Quality foods, local if possible, organic when possible, and prepared with care, are badges of honor here.

There are a couple of drawbacks to this level of performing; the chefs find themselves working to keep up the pace and then a new pace is set, and so on. With this design, it's easy to lose the essence of who we are, and why we are there. Neglecting self care also burns us out, eventually running on empty and having not much available to share with others. One of the dangers in this is what we begin to taste in the food, and all this can become obvious. Have you ever listened to the 'echo' of the food that you are eating/or having eaten? Can you feel the energy of the person or organization that has created it? And, even if we are not aware of it, aren't we resonating to the same vibrational frequency as the food? I happen to believe we are. With that in mind, I concentrate to establish that eating what these chefs are creating is not a one -dimensional experience, as so much mass quantity food production can be. To help facilitate this, the chefs are learning self care techniques, from sufficient sleep to drinking water, breathing exercises, stretching, to opening communication with co-workers, all of which will enhance the creative process of cooking. We eat with our eyes first, nose second and then our mouths, so chances are one of these senses will inform us that 'tired' food presentation and flavors are a reflection of the preparers.

In addition to working alongside each chef in the kitchen, there is a weekly process of 'book learning' education. Since our first class on March 19, we have addressed the medicinal value of spices and which spices are best with which foods, reading the hidden messages on labels, eating healthy with the season in honor of our body's seasonal 'shift', organic and GMO production of food and the politics of these systems. These subjects have profoundly raised their awareness to their own eating habits as well as the preparation of food for others. In the coming weeks emphasis will be placed on how foods affect different organ systems in the body, along with utilizing foods to shift emotional energy.

I wear my duty here with pride and vision, sharing in the reason Beverly approached me several months ago to 'help raise the vibration and awareness in the kitchen'....she let it be a surprise that mine would be raised so lifted in the process. Even so, when I first walked in the kitchen, I experienced some blank looks when I began using my nutritional vocabulary, and now we are speaking nearly the same language. Each day I have observed the chefs embracing a new theory, a new spice, a new method and new ingredients. They listen, they have feedback, they have techniques that are working and that are inspiring to me, and they have the eagerness to learn what they can to fill in the blanks. "Knowledge is power", Elmer shouts across the kitchen with a wide grin on his face. And they are realizing their power more every day.

A common theme and goal in the OSL kitchen is to turn generously donated and carefully purchased products into a big heaping helping of love, and we're *usually* seen having fun doing it!

Chef Patti is working toward her Masters in Nutrition, has a private consulting practice in Langley, WA and joined OSL in February as a Nutritional Consultant and educator. Visit her website at www.chefpatti.com for more details.

And the Beat goes on...

By Krista Grimm OPERATIONS DIRECTOR

Lately I have been thinking about the phenomena that we are experiencing in the outdoor meal line. We have seen increases over the last year that are very disturbing. When I was first hired at OSL five years ago it was during our "almost closing crisis". We had dropped our service down to two days a week, except for the meals for the First Place School for homeless children. Our line was fairly stable at that time. When we transitioned to the Meal Site at First Church, we saw increases and we began serving 5 days a week again, once our financial situation improved. When OSL was asked to manage the permanent Outdoor Meal Site two years ago our line began to grow and diversify. Recently our numbers have reached their highest point (since I have been with the organization), feeding 450 meals at a single meal. In these difficult economic times there are many new faces and new personalities. We strive to serve everyone while keeping with our goal of having a safe and clean environment for everyone. Though we have had some snags in the road, we continue to be there every day to feed those who need us the most!

Our **thanks** to the following organizations for their continued support of **OPERATION: Sack Lunch** and for making our work possible:

The Compass Center, our kitchen host,

St. John Vianney, hosts our walk-in freezer and dry storage, **Food LifeLine and North West Harvest** contribute thousands of lbs of donated food weekly,

City of Seattle, **Human Service Department**, for their continued encouragement and support.

OSL BOARD MEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

One of the elements that allow OPERATION: Sack Lunch to continue our service and grow with the needs of the community is the committed time given to us by our Board Members. Below are observations by two OPERATION: Sack Lunch Board Members; Shane Steffen and Anne Alfred.

Shane Steffen

I am the head of Finance for a small software company in Seattle, WA called Envision Telephony Inc. We focus on call center recording software, and yes, calls really are recorded for quality monitoring purposes when you call your bank. Prior to working for Envision Telephony I spent 10 years in the Construction and Real Estate Development industry both as a Controller at Sabey Corporation and prior to that as an independent consultant implementing accounting software packages.

I am currently attending Seattle University getting my EMBA and have the privilege to be working with a group of fellow students on Food In Motion, which is a program in cooperation with OPERATION: Sack Lunch which helps transport food from NW Harvest in Kent to a group of Seattle Meal Providers once a week. This program introduced me to OPERATION: Sack Lunch and the wonderful work being done by them. I jumped at the opportunity to join the board not only to represent Food in Motion but to help OPERATION: Sack Lunch in any way I can-.

I was born and raised in a small farm community in North Western Wisconsin. I attended college at St. Cloud State University in St. Cloud Minnesota and started working as a software consultant not long after graduation in Minneapolis. In 1999 a job opportunity brought me to Seattle on a two year contract that has turned into a 10 year permanent move. My wife and I fell in love with Seattle and the people who live here immediately and it has become our home. Karen and I have been married for ten years and we have two children; Lucas will be 5 this summer and Genevieve is 2 1/2 going on 5 like her big brother. We are an active outdoor family that enjoys boating, camping, and hiking which make Seattle a great place to live.

Could YOU be an OPERATION: Sack Lunch Board Member?

Do you have experience, talent, or an interest in any of the following? Fundraising, Marketing, Volunteer Recruitment, Organizational Skills, Project Development, Graphic Arts, Web Design... *Then we want and need you!*

Help keep our wheels on the road and be a part of an organization that has received numerous awards for it's radical compassion, social justice, and innovative service to the food-insecure in our State. Please submit a letter of interest to: *info@opsacklunch.org* OR CALL 866-277-9252

Anne Alfred

My interest in OSL began in 2001 when I was employed by Public Health – Seattle & King County as a health investigator/inspector/educator in the food safety program. I was fortunate enough to be able to choose my work and I chose to work with the ten percent or so of the 'foodstream' that goes to end users, eaters, without going through the retail process. What I learned on a regulatory level is shocking; that much donated or non retail food, that which goes to our most vulnerable persons, does not always receive the same protections that retail foods receive. Not only does it not receive the same food safety scrutiny as retail food, it is often cheap food of lower nutritional quality.

As I delved into the statistical world of food insecurity, I was amazed that over 50% of the food insecure are children and seniors, that many food insecure are employed, and gained a deeper understanding of the social and health issues around food. Out on 'my beat', I met the real live people who are these statistics, and I was touched, tutored, and honored to meet the people in many organizations who fight for them. I saw and felt the social, spiritual

Of course, that is where I met Beverly and OPERATION: Sack Lunch. I have watched over these several years the ever evolving love and ongoing commitment of OSL as they have scrambled and struggled and kept on going, assured, confident and undeterred in their belief that all humans deserve dignified nourishment. I have learned so much about life, stereotypes, graciousness, and honoring and valuing our fellow human beings.

In 2008 I left that job and knew I would miss my interaction with this community. When I saw a call for board members, I immediately responded, hoping that I could find a way to participate and stay in touch with these fabulous people I love.

I grew up in the Midwest, went to school in Montana, Boston, and Minneapolis, before settling in Seattle. I live in north Seattle with my multispecies family.

Operation Sack Lunch Wish List: NEW WHITE SOCKS.

Bottled water (12 to 16 ounces)

100% fruit juice

Personal Care items: toothbrushes, toothpaste, soap, hand sanitizer, shampoo, deodorant, combs, brushes, tampons, emery boards, hand cream, shaving cream, disposable razors

Thank you for your Contribution to our work!

All donations made to OPERATION: Sack Lunch are tax deductable!

You can give to us through **UNITED WAY** by designating your donation to OPERATION: Sack Lunch. United Way allows each donor to designate their pledge to any non-profit organization of their choice. OPERATION: Sack Lunch may not be listed on the pledge form but you can **write us in!**

You can also donate at our website at www.opsacklunch.org by clicking on the green "Donate Now" button at the top left of our home page! This feature is provided by Groundspring.org and is fast, easy and secure!

We are also happy to accept your credit card or check donation! OSL PO BOX 1231 Clinton, WA 98236 1-866-277-9252

Each meal the OPERATION: Sack Lunch team prepares and serves costs approximately \$4.19. We presently serve between 16,000 to 17,000 meals a month. Would you like an opportunity to be a part of the nutritional well being of the homeless and food insecure in the Seattle area?

I would like to sponsor 50 meals for the homeless and food	
insecure	\$211
I would like to sponsor 100 meals for	the homeless and food
insecure	\$422
I would like to sponsor 500 meals for	the homeless and food
insecure	\$2110
I would like to sponsor an entire day o	or 1000 meals for the
homeless and food insecure	\$4220
NAME:	
Please charge my credit card : #	
Expiration date:	
SIGNATURE:	



YVC YOUTH CORP with Chefs AC, Patti, and Taran



VOLUNTEERS FROM MONTANA



ATS AUTOMATION VOLUNTEERS



YES BEVERLY,
REAL OSL VOLUNTEERS
AND STAFF ARE NOT
AFRAID TO WEAR YOUR
DONNA REED APRONS!!

OSL STAFF MYSHIA

Worth a second look!

The meals that we serve each day would not happen without the love and dedication of the OPERATION: Sack Lunch Kitchen staff. The OSL staff always goes above and beyond the call of duty and stepping up to their own personal excellence. Pictured from left to right: Krista Grimm, AC Bush, Michael Johns, Myshia Drummond, Bottom row: Elmer Givens, Taran Graham, Sekayi Perkins



OSL OUTSTANDING VOLUNTEER



Bryant Tolliver has been volunteering with OSL for the last year and a half. He came to our line when he first arrived in Seattle. He immediately asked about volunteering as a way to give back to the organization for providing him with the nutritional meals needed to keep him going. Bryant started coming in and working a few hours at a time in the dish area. The staff soon realized his potential and began utilizing his skills throughout the kitchen. He began to take on major tasks such as organizing the refrigerator and freezer. He is an amazingly organized person and takes pride in knowing that he is giving back to the community. Bryant has logged well over 300 hours with OPERATION: Sack Lunch. He is well liked and appreciated by all the staff. On many occasions we find ourselves over loaded with tasks to complete and somehow he knows and shows up at the right time in the kitchen!

OPERATION: Sack Lunch Welcomes Food In Motion into the Fold!

Two years ago OSL began a partnership with FLL Seattle's Table to help rescue viable food from grocery stores and restaurants when Food Life Line trucks or drivers were unavailable. We share all the food and supplies we rescue with other providers who might not ordinarily be able to obtain the quality foods we were passing on. Our intent was to grow the program but time, staffing, and funding constraints delayed us. In steps **Food In Motion**, a team from the Executive Leadership Program of Seattle U. With OSL as the fiscal sponsor and the FIM teams enthusiasm, organizational skills, and fiscal resources, utilizing the OSL staff and refrigerated vehicle, our partnership provides food from Northwest Harvest in Kent to meal programs in Seattle. Although FIM/OSL is currently a one day a week project, as the program grows there is an intention to expand to more days. In addition to the delivery service, FIM includes a "personal shopping" element which allows meal programs to have their food hand-selected so that only acceptable products are delivered to their doors. OSL and FIM look forward to a long and productive partnership which will ultimately provide product to feed many people.

OUR VOLUNTEERS: Listed on this page are a few of the individual Volunteers and Volunteer groups that have participated with the OSL staff in preparing and serving more than **54,000** meals through the first quarter of 2009. They come from Idaho, North and Montana, Whidbey Island, Anacortes, Bellevue, Oregon, Maple Valley, and Seattle. For the first quarter of 2009 our volunteers logged more than **3500** volunteer hours and **3630** community service hours. (In 2005 OSL was instrumental in developing the City of Seattle's Municipal Community Court Program which allows offenders with poverty related crimes to work off their offense with community hours instead of jail time. Some continue to volunteer long after they have completed their service time.) Volunteering with OPERATION: Sack Lunch is an excellent way to contribute to the greater good of our community.

These hours equate to more than \$89,125. WOW! Thank you all so much!

Come serve with us!

GROUPS
Youth Volunteer Corp.
Zoodango
ATS Automation
Woodridge Community School
Mercer Island Day of Service
Bellevue High School Key Club
Raineir Christian School
Lakeside Middle School
United Way Day of Service
Seattle Prep Urban Plunge
City Year
TOPS
Bellevue High School Key Club
Bellevue Community College
Seattle Academy
Mercer Island HS Honor Society
Americorps
Building Changes
Compass Health
Kaplan Aspect ESL
Girl Scouts Troop 450
Girl Scouts Troop 52935
Norman Rockwell Daisy Scout Troop
INDIVIDUALS

2009 First Quarter Volunteers

INDIVIDUALS

Ana Madrigal **Ingrid Haynes Emeline Sears** Emma Sinclair Adi Oltean Eliana Pollock Myrian Pollock Jessica Hargin Selena Allen Shipman Elizabeth Shipman Virginia Lee Anne Groesser Vladimir Mkrtumyan Ann Maranan Niko Neido Thor & Randall Wampler **Bryant Tolliver**

Gina Kim Joanne Huang Maral Zarandi Phoebe Merritt Derek Schulte Julia Ball Megan Weisfield Rachel Keylin Hannah Bahn Kristine Fu Naomi Pak Harry Bolson Juli Gittelman Matthew Sellacek Trevor Reed Michael Rudohas Megan Fernandez Leah Li Paula Trepman Lilly Martin **Kyle Murphy** Mike Granger **Dwight Krodsi Nicky Stanley Tedd Filips Kathy Enlers** Scott Muirheaz Richelle Krzyzanowski Linda Bounyaron Shelley Henken Pete Segize Jerry Weatherhogg **Curtis Owens** Brian Allen Catherine Rosnack Rachel Deutseh Nancy Galaviz **Blake Smith** Terry Chen Antonio Diaz-Carrera **Alexander Vincent Emily Wise** Sean McDonald Will Holmes Ammon Teo

Tony To

Jennifer Knox Vanna Waldron Genevieve Lorenson Rose Jackson Nerissa Davis Denise Ramirez Michael Wauters Mavra Carrillo Amy Nguyen Chuck Butler Susan Yoshikawa Sarah Cotton Cilrto McMullen Susan Yoshikawa Shanglun Wang Nyssa Rogers **Andrew Tileston** Jason Harvey Boreum Kim Holly Groussman Mark Putnam Terra Chen **Erin Chambers** Will Brattain Ingrid Haftel Charlie Corrigan Joan Weiss Berk Algeg Kyoungmin Yi Kyuuan Lee Hye Ju Hong Chi Kim Doo-Hyan Chang Yoko Mamiya Yuka Miura Mami Asano Rika Sugiura Saon Yoshida Hyun Joon Sang Tanner Harlington Holly Naish Don Zemke **Edmund Trangen** Arell Hennings Alec Hannaford Tyler Cox

Cristi Erikson Jason Koo Stacy Lentz Michael Nachban Noah Lerner Tim Giles Arrianna McInnes Alya Nguyen Bjorn Payne Barbara Palacios Susan Roxborough Amy Magley Marvin Stanton Robin Gage Peter Clark Ceddy Rhodes **Dominic Thomas** Alice Edwards Spencer Thomas **Baileh Simms** Christina Leonidas Hans Watkins Megan McCall **Carly Simmons** Kristi Tollner Alex Poolsen Drew Beckman Peter Christiansen Matthew Crawford Amoni Teshome John Delany Alex Machelanz Kathy Hardinge Angela Hall Clark McReynolds Presha Laramore Riley Coleman Stefan White Sam Wahl Sean Grady Patrick Leavy Kathy Smith **Emily Kim** Paige Suelzle Brittanee Randle Dominique Randle

Sabrina Scott Anna Duncan Magnus Giave Justin Wilkins Thor Wampler Laura Vong Calvin Lee Darrin Liu Rachel Deutsch Louisa Heywood **Baillie Silver** Kenzie McBrayer Alyssa Buchthal Megan Davis Abby Hu Emma Hall Lina Larson **Kelly Silver** Marianne Heywood Lindsay Backous Ellen Horn Elizabeth Hall Laura Bachthal Steve Haines Lori Eickelbeks Maya Zisette Natalya Czosyka Rvan Keo Will Leonard DeMarcus Coleman Andres Garcia Katie Toyoshma Xiaochun Lee Isabella Milton Allison Bircher Samantha Spinrad Katherine White Madeleine White Sofiya Mitchell Sydney Trzupek Karmen Trzupek Julie Bircher Anna Milton Myriam Pollack

During the first quarter of 2009 the following **79** Individuals, Corporations, Foundations, and the City of Seattle made it possible for OPERATION: Sack Lunch to provide **54,126** Nutritionally Excellent meals to the homeless and food in-secure in the Seattle area with contributions totaling **\$91,473.45**. We could not do it without you. **THANK YOU!**

Tom and Kelly Anderson

Michael Arians

Margaret Wold Armstrong

ATS Automation

Joan Banker

John & Michelle Boal

Joseph & Julie Bodmer

Eugene and Marilu Boe

Kathleen & James Borgman

Laurie Brown

Beverly & Bob Bruno,

Marlice & Richard Camus

Lois Cassidy

Stacey Castleberry & Craig McAllister

City of Seattle

City of Seattle Combined Charity Campaign

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Jerrie & Al Drinkwine

Howie Ergan

Connie & Frank Fuda

Beverly Graham

Debbie Grimm

Sharon Heath

August and Diane Hendricks

Mary & Norm Hradec

Jan Hulteen

IBM Employee Services

Jewish Day School

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Beth Kristen and Mark Lindell

Emiko & Vincent Marx

John McMullen

Microsoft

Gretchen Murphy

Roger Myers

Jerome Nokes

Donald Nowak

Cynthia & David Nowowiejski

Jim & Pat Nye

Kathleen Otley

John Ott

Roy Ozanne

Bill and Sherie Powers

Princess Tours

Naomi Riesgaard

Timothy & Kathy Ryan

Seattle Academy of Arts and Sciences

State of WA. Dept. of Personnel

United Way of King County

United E-Way

Father Thomas Vandenberg

Thomas Volkle Susan Wagner Rosemary Warren Washington Mutual Peter Wheeler

Delores & Tony Zimmerman

FOOD and PRODUCT DONORS

Food Life Line

Capital Grill

Organic to Go

City Catering

R & K Foods

The Garage

St. John Vianney

WAMU

JP Work and Associates

NorthWest Harvest

The Space Needle

Rock Bottom Brewery

Charlies/ST Produce

Levy Restaurants (Qwest Field)

The total number of breakfast, lunch and dinner meals, prepared and served by OPERATION: Sack Lunch through **the first quarter of 2009** is **54,126** for an estimated value of: *\$226,787.94*

In the first quarter of 2009 OSL received 29,337 lbs of donated food, purchased more than 7435 lbs of food, and rescued more than 16,623 lbs of viable food from the waste stream.

OSL staff and volunteers have prepared and served **53,395 lbs** of food for those who are hungry in our community through **April 2009**.



Loaded van from a donated food pick up



WALLS

WATER

OF

AND

MOUNDS

OF

MEATBALLS!

OPERATION: Sack Lunch

PO Box 1231

Clinton, WA 98236



"To provide dignity, care and compassion through action with the example that each person can make a difference.

To educate and advocate acceptance and understanding of each other's differences.

To ultimately bring about the realization that we are all a vital part of this world and with extended effort put an end to homelessness, hunger and hatred."

Partners in Compassion

City of Seattle &

NUTRITIONAL EXCELLENCE:

A right we are born to not a privilege we earn

www.opsacklunch.org 1-866-277-9252 info@opsacklunch.org