



CITY OF KIRKLAND
Department of Parks & Community Services
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MEMORANDUM

To: Kurt Triplett, City Manager

From: Regi Schubiger, Youth Services Coordinator
Kari Page, Neighborhood Services Coordinator
Jennifer Schroder, Director

Date: January 5, 2012

Subject: Eastside Month of Concern for the Hungry Results

The 2011 Eastside Month of Concern for the Hungry, "Share What You Can" campaign collected more than 90,000 pounds of food and \$15,000 in cash donations during the month-long drive. Neighborhood associations, community leaders, faith organizations, local grocery stores, businesses, hospitals and schools organized local efforts by hosting food drives and fundraising events in their city from September 24 through October 22. The cities of Bellevue, Kirkland, Issaquah, Mercer Island, Redmond, and Sammamish participated in the Month of Concern for the Hungry as a collaborative initiative among public and non-profit human service agencies spearheaded by the Eastside Human Service Forum.

The emphasis for the month-long drive was to "Share What You Can" and fill food bank shelves with non-perishable food items before the holidays. Eastside Month of Concern for the Hungry was a community-wide effort benefitting local area food banks, including HopeLink, Emergency Feeding Program, ARAS Foundation, Issaquah Food Bank, Mercer Island Food Pantry, and Renewal Food program.

This year has been especially challenging for food banks in our community due to recent, unexpected federal cuts to food programs in King County. This, coupled with the increased demand in clients needing food assistance, has created added challenges for food bank providers. Emergency Feeding Program Operations Director, Brian Anderson noted how much the effort has grown in three short years. "As other sources of support have been eroding, grassroots efforts like this - people coming together to help other people - are so vitally important. And so very effective. The amount of food collected this year is incredibly impressive - food that will go right to work helping feed the increasing number of households in our community who struggle to keep adequate nutritious food on the family table. This year's response truly makes me proud to be an Eastsider."

We would like to ask the Mayor to present certificates of appreciation to both HopeLink and Emergency Feeding Program for their support and efforts during the drive.