



Interfaith Council to Prevent Homelessness
P.O. Box 330
Vashon, Washington 98070

August 31st, 2020

Health Center Volunteers
Granny's Attic

Re: Community Meals Program Grant Request

The Interfaith Council to Prevent Homelessness Community Meals Program now provides dinner meals six days a week for many of Vashon Island's most vulnerable neighbors. In 2019, the Council's Meals Program provided over 7,800 meals that were prepared at home by volunteers across the Island and served at four Island churches. IFCH spent \$21,221 for the meals program in 2019. Because of the pandemic, in the middle of March, 2020, Pastor Paul Mitchell and the Methodist Church agreed to host the meal location six days a week. Since then they have generously opened their kitchen and storage facilities for the preparation of the IFCH meals, and, also provide the space for hot coffee and drinks to be served and the meals to be picked up at the church six afternoons per week. Bathroom facilities are also available.

We continue to employ the same two people to set up the service area at the church and clean up after these dinners. However, we now pay them to do the shopping for all of the food, and time it takes to store the provisions and prepare each meal and coffee and tea, and package them, and monitor the pick-up area at the church. Both of these people live in subsidized housing. In 2019 the labor expenses of the Meal Program were \$21,221. Beginning March 19, 2020, through August 24, 2020, 2,640 meals were prepared and served. About 20 meals are prepared and served each day.

The costs of the food during this time are \$3,313, and the labor was \$11,500.

We are seeing an increase in younger people relying on this service. Some are homeless, and others are experiencing anxiety and stress on the island during these times. Toni reports that the diners are missing talking and laughing with each other in the welcoming atmosphere of the church's dining areas. We need this program to continue for the health and well-being of our most at-risk neighbors. We are asking for \$10,000. To help this community's healthy meals program continue.

Thank you for considering our request for grant money.