

Stories from Within:

Hi, I'm Judy Jones, the Development Director for the Thurston County Food Bank. Stories from Within — individual reflections and messages from our food bank staff, volunteers, and clients. I hope you enjoy.

Hello — my name is Joe and I serve as Hunger Security Coordinator at the Thurston County Food Bank via Washington State Service Corps. (The following story is written and read by Joe.)

Thanks

I helped load food into someone's car. That human was in tears because it meant they would get to celebrate a special occasion in a tradition that involves food. They didn't think it was going to happen and the food made it so. They thanked me profusely. Thing is, my loading of food into that car was the easiest part of that food's journey to the trunk. There were the people who donated the food, the people who sorted those donations, and the people who assembled the food into bags with handy acronyms. There're the people who coordinate these efforts, the drivers who move the food to where it needs to be, and the spider-folk who navigate the web of programs and grants that make it all possible. Such as AmeriCorps, the federal program that takes care of my needs so I have the luxury to serve. There are so many people that it boggles the mind. Thousands of people in Thurston County work together to help improve food security for the entire county and beyond. It is my hope that these people can hear that human's thank-you as the food entered the trunk of their car.

Thanks!

Judy Jones speaking:

With the help of our Summer AmeriCorps Member, Aleina, the "Thank-A-Farmer" Project was rejuvenated, allowing us to thank our local growers and farmers who make it easier than ever before to support our priority to provide fresh, local, healthy fruits and vegetables to our clients.

A message from one of our clients reads, "Just wanted to say thank you for the absolutely adorable baby bag. I was so thankful for all of this, and how cute is the handmade turtle and matching blanket!"

A reflection from one of our clients who is now a volunteer: "When I made my first visit to get food for myself, I was treated with respect and dignity. No one is treated any less..."

The video closes with a photo from the Lacey's Food Pantry welcome sign in Chinese, English, Korean, Spanish and Vietnamese.