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ballardfoodbank.org

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Ballard
Food Bank
Neighbors Helping Neighbors

February 27, 2013

Jean Godden
Council Member
City of Seattle
600 4th Avenue, 2nd Floor
Seattle, WA 98124

Dear Council Member Godden,

The Ballard Food Bank merged with both North End Emergency Fund and the Magnolia Helpline years ago. The work of those agencies, in part, was to ensure that our neighbors were not without water, sewer, or electricity. Today, our agency budget for our Emergency Client Services includes \$36,000 annually for Utility Shut-Off Assistance (we also offer over \$50,000 in assistance for rental eviction and State of WA Identification).

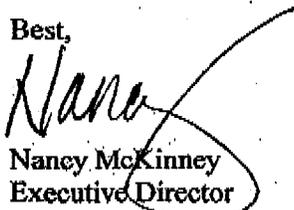
We serve the neighborhoods of Ballard, Queen Anne, and Magnolia (98107, 98117, 98177, 98109, and 98199) for rental and utility assistance. Anyone is welcome to get State of WA identification assistance. We work with other agencies such as the Queen Anne Helpline, Salvation Army, and Hopelink. It should be noted that the reason we are able to afford these programs is because half of the budget is underwritten by a very generous neighborhood donor.

As the attached spreadsheet demonstrates, in both 2012 and 2013 we provided assistance to families with children who were facing water shutoff. I want to highlight that disclosure of children in the home is entirely voluntary and not a focus of our data collection – thus the presence of children in homes seeking assistance with their water bill may be underreported.

This year we have already helped eight children who were in homes facing water shutoff, as our program only assists when a shut off notice has been received. Access to basic needs, including clean water and sanitation, is critical. And I support any steps taken to reduce utility disconnections, especially to seniors or families with children in the home.

Please let me know if the Ballard Food Bank can be of further assistance in discussing the needs of families that are trying to stay in housing and maintain access to basic needs. Thank you for advocating for all of our neighbors!

Best,


Nancy McKinney
Executive Director