

“May the dignity of your fellow be as dear to you as your own.”

- Pirke Avot 2:15

WHAT DOES “DIGNITY” LOOK LIKE AT THE JFS POLACK FOOD BANK?

During COVID-19, the food bank continues to operate, but our delivery system has changed. Now, social distancing is necessary to protect everyone’s health and safety.

In the past:

The food bank offered a “consumer-choice” model, meaning that:

- People who needed food came and chose the groceries they wanted—and that were culturally appropriate for them.
- A team of four JFS staff members and more than 75 volunteers helped with food distribution and restocking each month.
- JFS held a large community Food Drive during the High Holidays.
- Over 2,000 bags of food were sorted, boxed and labeled by over 350 volunteers.
- All types of packaged food and toiletries were welcome at the Food Sort.

Today, during COVID-19:

- With food insecurity growing, JFS needs food donations more than ever.
- Because of COVID-19, people won’t gather during the holidays in the same numbers and a large Food Sort gathering is not possible.

- At the food bank, groceries are distributed in boxes pre-packaged by a limited number of staff and a handful of volunteers (all while wearing masks and socially distancing).
- All pre-packaged food boxes contain a specific list of basic food items, useful for the largest number of people.
- Some bags are delivered directly to people who need them. Others are distributed at the food bank.

Therefore:

- JFS now asks only for specifically requested items for our pre-packaged food bags.
- Please donate only the specific item(s) requested by your Food Drive.
- As always, we cannot accept open packages or expired food.
- Each place of collection, whether an organization or an individual, sorts and boxes food before delivering to JFS.
- Collection of food is spread over several months. This allows for a steady flow of food into the food bank and less stress on limited staff.

MORE ON BACK



DIGNITY REMAINS THE OVERARCHING VALUE OF THE JFS POLACK FOOD BANK.

For reflection, discussion and response:

- How does eating healthy and having enough food impact your health? Your dignity?
- How has COVID-19 impacted the connections between dignity, food and health?

Consider the changes made to the JFS food collection and to food distribution. How do these changes impact the dignity of:

- People who need food?
- Staff?
- Community volunteers?

To respond to these questions or to share other thoughts about your food collection experience, please fill this space with:

A drawing. A poem. A sentence. A story. Or any response that expresses your thoughts!

SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS AND EXPERIENCES!

Email a picture of your response or of other reflections on your experiences to education@jfsseattle.org to be shared with JFS staff and the community.



TOGETHER AGAINST HUNGER.