

Imagine your produce feeding the hungry!

Many of you are gardeners. Have you ever considered growing produce for our local foodbanks? Here's a way you can help out in the community of Kitsap County. It's not too late to plant a little extra for your neighbors. In Leviticus 23:22, scripture tells us, *"And when you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not reap your field to its very border, nor shall you gather the gleanings after your harvest; you shall leave them for the poor and for the stranger: I am the Lord your God."*

Chris Smith, *Kitsap Sun's* "Sound Gardener" offers some ideas as to what sort of things could be planted now that would be edible in time for the lean summer months the foodbanks and feeding programs experience. He says, "most of the produce that would be ready June through September should be planted now or in the next 3-4 weeks. It's too late for peas and spinach now. But carrots, beets, lettuce and broccoli transplants could go in late April into May. Early May is a good time for Swiss chard and kale. Then in mid-May, you can put out tomato and pepper transplants and seed beans, cucumbers, zucchini, winter squash and corn. Anyone interested in growing for the foodbanks could count on getting technical advice from WSU's Master Gardeners. Their hotline is (206)337-7158."

There are eight major foodbanks in Kitsap County, from Bainbridge Island to South Kitsap, including the Salvation Army, and several other programs that feed the homeless and those with low-income, that you could give to. Everyone needs help in these hard economic times.

Below is the contact information needed to make arrangements to donate your produce. Check to see what fruit they can take, and any other goods they can use that you can spare. Blessings to you for your generous spirit and please pass this idea on to those you know who can help, too.

Sharenet/Kingston:

<http://www.sharenetfoodbank.org/index.html>

Bainbridge Island Helpline House:

office@helplinehouse.org

North Kitsap Fishline:

info@nkfishline.org

Bremerton Food Line:

<http://foodline.homestead.com/>

Central Kitsap Food Bank:

(360) 692-9818

St. Vincent's-Bremerton:

(360) 479-7017

Pastor Art's Homeless Feed/East Bremerton:

artpreach@hotmail.com

The Lord's Neighborhood Diner:

sheponyx@aol.com

The Salvation Army:

<http://www.bremertonsalvationarmy.org/index.html>

South Kitsap Helpline:

<http://www.helplinefoodbank.org/foodbank.html>

