

# Food bank needs two new volunteers

## Being a food bank director is a 'rewarding' experience

**LISA TALLYN**  
Staff Writer

Verna Jespersen says stepping down from the Georgetown Bread Basket board of directors was a tough decision for her.

The Terra Cotta woman was one of the founding members of the food bank 11 years ago and enjoyed serving as a director in many roles. She encourages others to step forward and take on one of the two director's positions currently available on the food bank's board.

"It's very rewarding because you feel you're contributing to the less fortunate in the community," said Jespersen, who stepped down as a director this past summer to focus some of her energy on another worthy cause, but continues to be an active volunteer at the Bread Basket. "It makes you realize how fortunate you are yourself when you work with the underprivileged."

While she often gladly devoted many long hours to the food bank while serving as a director she said those interested in becoming a director have the opportunity to determine how much time they want to put in, in addition to a commitment to working at least once or twice a month at the food bank either Wednesday or Saturday. There is also usually one meeting a month and also fundraising and awareness events held at the Georgetown Farmers' Market, so the directors may be required to staff that booth occasionally.

"The rest is all up to them. It's very flexible," said Jespersen.

The food bank has directors serving as treasurer, office manager, volunteer co-ordinator, facility manager, media co-ordinator and chair. The two available positions are for directors at large.

Jespersen said it was difficult to get the food bank up and running back in 1996.

"There was a lot of paperwork. Finding a facility was the hardest part," she said.

She remembers "wobbly shelves" and "very little storage space" in the original facility at 247 Armstrong Ave.

She said back then, the food bank served about 50 families and today that number has tripled. This past June, the food bank passed a milestone when it served its 1,000th customer.

"It fluctuates with the season and the economy," said Jespersen.

She added they serve a mix of single men, single mothers and families.

Approximately 50 volunteers help out at the food bank, she said.



Retiring Georgetown Bread Basket director Verna Jespersen says, "It makes you realize how fortunate you are yourself when you work with the underprivileged." She is retiring after 11 years and her departure will leave the food bank in need of two new volunteer directors.

*Photo by Ted Brown*

"It's very worthwhile," said Jespersen.

Anyone interested in becoming a director or a volunteer at Georgetown Bread Basket is asked to call the food bank at 905-873-3368 or drop by the food bank at 55 Sinclair Ave. Unit 12, 9 a.m. to noon Wednesday or Saturday to obtain an application form.

New directors will receive full training.

(Lisa Tallyn can be reached at [ltallyn@independentfreepress.com](mailto:ltallyn@independentfreepress.com))

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