

## MEET CHERRYL BURKEY

July 2020



Cherryl is an energetic volunteer who has been with the Clark Neighbors Food Project (CNFP) since it was just a glimmer of an idea back in 2017. CNFP founders Debbie and Greg Nelson approached the Truman Neighborhood Association Council (TNA) for support and guidance in implementing their program so that food donations from neighbors would go to the Truman Elementary Family Resource Center as well as to FISH of Vancouver. As a member of the TNA Council (and now the chair), Cherryl raised her hand to help and has never looked back.

In addition to serving as a Neighborhood Coordinator for the Truman neighborhood, Cherryl has a knack for organizing people and processes, and she uses those skills to manage the food donation process on Collection Saturdays at Truman Elementary (which moved to FISH of Vancouver in June). And she wasn't daunted by collecting food and organizing the collection site during the pandemic – she just put on her mask, observed the new safety protocols, and jumped right in!

One of the most important aspects of her volunteer work with CNFP has been that since day one she's been able to include her grandson Chance. He's worked side by side with her since he was 11, helping to pick up food bags from neighbors' front porches, loading bags in and out of the car, and helping to organize and sort food every two months at the collection site. Even though he's now 14, he still likes volunteering.

Cherryl has also shown leadership and dedication in providing food for the Family Resource Center at Truman Elementary School. She has encouraged Truman food donors to shop for foods that families need and that young children can cook themselves while their parents are at work. Amazing what a big impact Cherryl and her neighbors have made, and we know they'll be back at it when in-person school resumes!

When not volunteering, you can find Cherryl tending to her vegetable garden, encouraging the neighbor kids to learn about growing (and eating!) veggies, and generously sharing her fresh produce with friends and neighbors.

Cherryl's advice for anyone thinking of volunteering with Clark Neighbors Food Project? "Do it!"