



May 2009

RE: Bellevue 24-Hour Relay Challenge Gives Back to the Community

Dear Bellevue Community,

We are grateful to the hundreds of local businesses, organizations and groups that have supported the Bellevue 24-Hour Relay Challenge for the past ten years. In this time of challenging economic climate Bellevue youth are responding to our community's need by helping supply local food banks. Instead of the usual Bellevue 24-Hour Challenge Relay, an event traditionally held the last weekend of June, the relay directors have organized an all-community food drive from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, June 27, in the Downtown Park.

This year the Relay will give to the community. We're mobilizing our relay teams to collect food. Our goal is to give 24,000 pounds to local food banks.

The food will be given to Hopelink, Overlake Service League, and World Impact Network. All non-perishable donations are welcome, i.e., peanut butter, canned meats, vegetables, pasta, and baby food, etc. Summer can be a particularly difficult time for families. People may bring their food donation to the Downtown Park between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. Saturday, June 27.

The Bellevue 24-Hour Challenge Relay is a community event that attracts more than 2,000 people. Teams of 10 youth, accompanied by at least one adult chaperone, camp out in the Downtown Park for 24 hours. Youth come from every school and neighborhood in Bellevue. Team members walk or run one mile (two laps) on the walking path before passing the baton on to another youth. The 10th anniversary event in 2008 was celebrated by more than 1,300 relay members, 400 volunteers and another 300-plus entertainers and community members.

Bellevue 24-Hour Relay Challenge will be back in its traditional form in 2010.

For more information about the Bellevue 24-Hour Relay "Food" Challenge please contact Helena Stephens at 425.452.2846 or hstephens@bellevuewa.gov

Thank you for your continued support of the Relay!

Sincerely,

Relay Directors