



making a difference

By **Rachael Eichner**, Contributing Writer



Local Resident **Mike Griffith**

Joins the Fight Against Hunger and Homelessness



Mike's dog, Trilby, keeps him company.

Bridle Trails community member Mike Griffith has lived and worked in Bellevue his entire life. He grew up attending Bellevue schools, he graduated from the University of Washington and started his career here.

Mike is passionate about helping families in need to succeed and invests his time and money into fighting poverty. "Bellevue is a wonderful place to live and work," shared Mike. "I have personally benefitted immensely from living here and want that same opportunity for others."

Mike is one of the Bridle Trails community members whose passion and generosity make local nonprofit Bellevue LifeSpring's work possible. Their mission is to foster stability and self-sufficiency for Bellevue's children and their families through programs that provide food, clothing, education and emergency assistance.

Mike first became involved with Bellevue LifeSpring through making a donation to their thrift shop and participating in the Holiday Adopt-A-Family™ program. He chose to invest in their mission because of their focus on helping local children and their families. Mike believes in the power of neighbors helping neighbors. "If we lend a helping hand to these families, they can achieve great things for Bellevue."

Since COVID-19 closed schools in mid-March, Bellevue LifeSpring adapted its services to meet the immediate needs of low-income children in our community. Mike knew he had to step up and do his part in helping Bellevue LifeSpring achieve their goal of ensuring that no child in Bellevue experienced hunger or homelessness due to the pandemic. "The poverty in Bellevue is a worsening problem that most people are unaware of," shared Mike. "COVID-19 has magnified what was already an unmet need here and has made it much more difficult for lower-income residents to maintain work and feed their children."

Every person has a different reason that inspires them to give back. For Mike, it was a wakeup call he received after his wife

was sick with cancer. "There are a lot of people that face a lot of struggles in life," shared Mike. "I make it a priority to get outside of myself and do things that help people. I'm aghast that here we are in Bellevue with all this money and we still have this level of poverty. You have to try to do your part. "

Thank you, Mike, for supporting local children. Join Mike and learn how you can make a difference with Bellevue LifeSpring by visiting www.BellevueLifeSpring.org!

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