

GRAB BAG

WORDS // Q&A

COLUMBIA BAR



TREASURE ALLEY

SUBMITTED PHOTO

Try making this whiskey, brandy, cranberry cider — or head to Pickled Fish and raise a glass while helping out a good cause.

By RYAN HUME

This November, the month of giving thanks, there are plenty of unique ways to give back to your community, including volunteering your time and energy at the North Coast Food Web, the Harbor or many other goodwill organizations working to improve our region. There will be plenty of can drives arriving during the holiday season, and one simple everyday contribution you can make is to bring your own reusable bag to the Astoria Co-op, get a bean at the checkout counter and donate a nickel to a rotating number of causes.

Of course, for my money, one of the most delicious and delightful ways to give back to the community is to partake in Pickled Fish's Cocktails for a Cause program.

Every month the bar staff offers up an off-menu cocktail and pairs it with a worthwhile organization, which receives 50 percent of every \$10 purchase. Leave it up to one of the most innovative restaurants and bars on the Long Beach

Peninsula to decide that you can still do some good even when you are getting your drink on.

This month's drink, a warm cranberry punch they are calling Treasure Alley, is soothing, seasonally appropriate and may best be served turkey adjacent. I mean, why eat cranberry sauce at Thanksgiving when you can get cranberry sauced? The name is a combination of one of the Long Beach Peninsula's cranberry farms, Starvation Alley, which is providing the cranberry components of the beverage, and this month's recipient of sales, the Treasure Our Teens Stocking Project, part of the Families Helping Families ministry run through Pacific Bible Church in Ilwaco, Washington.

The program is organized by Shari Allen Kokesh and her husband, Matt Kokesh, a cook at the Pickled Fish, when Allen Kokesh noticed, according to the Chinook Observer, that there were many area holiday drives that benefited families and young children in need, but none that supported teenagers. Treasure

Our Teens Stocking Project aims to supply underserved teens in Ilwaco with necessary items, like personal hygiene products, hats and scarves, all delivered in a festive holiday stocking. Certainly a worthwhile cause and something worth raising a glass to!

Ingredients

1.5 ounces Old Overholt or another rye whiskey
1/2 ounce Calvados apple brandy
1/2 ounce Starvation Alley Cranberry Juice
R.W. Knudsen Apple Cider
A few whole cranberries

Directions

Pour the rye, Calvados and cranberry juice into a glass cocktail mug while you heat the apple cider on the stovetop or in the microwave. Once the cider is steaming hot, top off the mug with the warm cider and garnish with a few whole cranberries.

—Recipe courtesy of Matt Lessnau, bar manager at Pickled Fish. Pour courtesy of Jody Blea, bartender at Pickled Fish, Adrift Hotel, Long Beach, Washington.

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