NORTHWEST HARVEST’S CHERRY STREET FOOD BANK FORCED TO MOVE DUE TO PRIVATE REDEVELOPMENT

Washington state’s busiest food bank has 12 months to find a new home

(Seattle, WA – March 1, 2018) Northwest Harvest received official notice on Tuesday, February 27, to vacate the Cherry Street Food Bank – located in Seattle’s First Hill neighborhood – where it has faithfully served the community for over 35 years.

The land owner, Trinity Parish Church, sent Northwest Harvest the 12-month notice, in preparation to have the location developed into a 30-story mixed-use residential tower constructed by Caydon Property Group, a developer from Australia.

“If there were ever a story that epitomizes the downside of growth in our region – this is it,” said Northwest Harvest CEO, Thomas Reynolds. “Displacing a neighborhood food bank to make space for yet another high rise is just another example of the growing inequity the people in and around Seattle must deal with.”

Northwest Harvest appreciates the 35-year relationship with Trinity Parish. On average, Cherry Street Food Bank serves nearly 5,000 people each week – providing fresh fruits and vegetables, basic food staples, baby formula, and a variety of other nutritious and substantive food for families, children, seniors, single parents, veterans, and all others who find themselves in need.

Northwest Harvest continues exploring all possibilities to best serve the families that count on Cherry Street Food Bank. “We are actively looking for a new home that can best serve the communities who have counted on Northwest Harvest for decades,” said Reynolds. “We will continue providing much-needed food with love and dignity to those who seek our help. But we need to find a new home as soon as we can.”

One of the primary considerations in finding a new location for the Food Bank is public transportation and access. “We have to be in a place where people can easily get to us,” added Reynolds. “Having access to bus lines and parking are qualities that our visitors tell us they most desire in our new home.”

It is not currently known when daily operations at the Food Bank will change due to this displacement. Northwest Harvest is committed to keeping all its stakeholders (customers, volunteers, staff, donors, and neighbors) well informed. The loss of Cherry Street Food Bank will have no immediate impact on Northwest Harvest’s current distribution of food to its statewide network of 375 food banks, meal programs, and high-need schools.

Northwest Harvest is looking for community support in their quest to find a new home for the Food Bank. If you have information on a property, please contact Jordan Rubin at 206.923.7426. If you would like to make a monetary donation to help Northwest Harvest find a new home, please visit northwestharvest.org.

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About Northwest Harvest
Northwest Harvest is Washington’s leading hunger relief agency – supporting a statewide network of 375 food banks, meal programs, and high-need schools. Focused on improving equity in our food system, Northwest Harvest believes everyone in Washington should have consistent access to nutritious food that feeds the body, mind, and spirit. In addition to making sure those who suffer from hunger are being fed, Northwest Harvest aims to shift public opinion, as well as impact institutional policies and societal practices that perpetuate hunger, poverty, and disparities in our state.