

The mission of Northwest Harvest is to provide nutritious food to hungry people statewide in a manner that respects their dignity, while fighting to eliminate hunger.

A Milestone Met; A New Chapter Opens

A message from Chief Executive Officer Shelley Rotondo

Fifty years ago, Northwest Harvest was founded as a short-term solution to help fill in gaps that were causing hunger in our communities. Though our journey has been longer than anticipated, we still work towards a vision of ending hunger in Washington. At the heart of our work, from 1967 to today, are the people in need whom we are proud to serve, with no questions asked.

Over the last fifty years, Northwest Harvest has built partnerships with over 375 food banks, meal programs and high-need schools across the state. We have developed partnerships with farmers and other food sources that allow us to distribute healthy fruits and vegetables across the state. We work with schools to provide backpacks that are filled with food for students that might not otherwise have food on weekends. Our Cherry Street Food Bank is one of the busiest in the state. The line is often up the hill and around the block through all kinds of inclement weather.

It's an exciting time at Northwest Harvest. In April, we are commemorating our 50th Anniversary with our first annual "Root Out Hunger" event. (Learn more about this event on page 5 and at www.rootouthunger.org.) We have just completed our strategic plan for 2017-2020. We are also settling into our new organizational structure which supports the significant growth of our agency. We just completed a move of our administration office to a new and stable home in the Belltown neighborhood of Seattle. We have an engaged board with a great representation of skills and resources and a solid and fully deployed staff who are fully immersed in our mission.

It is also a good time for new leadership. After almost 16 years of doing what I love, for an organization that I deeply admire and for a cause that is very dear to me, I

am announcing my retirement at the end of our fiscal year on June 30. Working with our staff, volunteers, partners and financial supporters to grow and develop this wonderful organization has been the opportunity of a lifetime. Together and always, driving towards greater impact for those we serve. It has been a job that has engaged me in all possible ways and at all levels of what I have to offer.

I am excited about the opportunity that new leadership provides, and I would like to take this moment to thank you for what you do to make a difference for our neighbors in need. Our work is not done. Too many people in Washington are unable to reach their full potential for health and well-being, because they are struggling to make ends meet. With limited incomes and resources, they are skipping meals to pay the rent, put gas in their cars so they can get to work and earn a paycheck to pay the bills. Often, there is very little left over to put food on the table for their families.

We are part of a much-needed safety net for children, families, men and women. Every pound of food we distribute makes a difference to someone in ways that are hard to imagine. Food not only feeds the body, it also provides hope and a sense of belonging.

For 16 years, my office has had a front seat view to seeing those that need our help, and those that step forward to provide the help that strengthens our communities.

I am forever grateful for your continued support that allows our work to be done,



Shelley

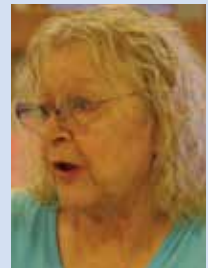
"The food we receive from NWH has been one of the best things that has happened to our clients! It is so nice to have food on the shelves in the open area that people can help themselves to."

—Inter-Faith Treasure House, Clark County

Everyday Struggles of Hunger

Each year we cross the state, visiting hunger relief programs to hear directly from people who are struggling to feed themselves and their families. These compelling, personal stories are compiled into our report on the state of hunger in Washington, Focus on Food Security. Complete report at: northwestharvest.org/focus-on-food-security.

SNAP benefits are already frequently inadequate and many recipients have already seen cuts to their benefits. They worry about what might happen to them if Congress cuts the program even more. Arlene declared, "It keeps getting lowered. I'm really scared that they'll lower it more, and I don't know how I'll survive if they do."



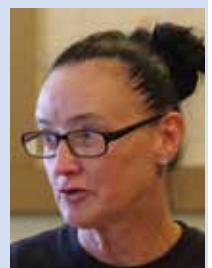
—Arlene, Othello

One participant, thanks to a constellation of basic needs services, "recently got out of homelessness." Although Jack has managed to secure housing, it is the fragile but coordinated web of food programs that keeps him whole. "I'm on Social Security Disability and only get \$16 in food stamps," he said. "A lot of my income goes to my rent and medical bills. I totally depend on food banks. Out of seven days a week, I go to food banks five times a week and eat at churches too."



—Jack, Seattle

"I don't understand why we have hunger in America," declared April. "Of course we can't cut programs that feed the hungry and poor! It's a no brainer! From our land of plenty, it's heartbreaking and ridiculous."



—April, Battleground

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*Glimpses of a
shared history:
Northwest Harvest
and WA community,
1967-2016*

See Northwest Harvest at work over the last five decades in photos from our archive included throughout this issue. We hope you enjoy this scrapbook view of our history. Thank you for making it possible!

Today is the
25th Anniversary
of E.M.M./Northwest Harvest

Because of the generosity of the community around us and all across Washington State, we are able to provide the food you see here today...and more than eleven million pounds of good nutrition that is shared with over 300 other hunger programs in our state.

We are blessed with being able to do this work...and we thank God for that, because we love you and pray that your life will get better each day!

**25 Years
NORTHWEST
HARVEST
1967 - 1992**
Thank You!

E.M.M./Northwest Harvest
711 Cherry Street, Seattle, Washington

Clockwise from top: Stocking the old warehouse with produce donations from Rotary First Harvest; a young Joel McHale and friends help at La Buca Celebrity Waiter Benefit; volunteers staff local grocery stores during a food collection drive; Northwest Harvest staff celebrate the holidays at Cherry Street Food Bank circa 1990; a souvenir from the organization's 25th year; a staffer hard at work in the pre-computer days; a young boy opening an empty refrigerator is shown in an early awareness campaign.

LANDMARK GIFT SECURES MEALS FOR MILLIONS

Leading Seattle philanthropist, Floyd Jones, a man who grew up picking cotton during the Great Depression, is contributing approximately \$5 million to Northwest Harvest. The bequest is the single largest gift in the organization's 50-year history. Jones made this announcement January 16 to Northwest Harvest CEO, Shelley Rotondo, and Donor Relations Manager, Todd Girouard.

"I've done well in my life," the 89-year old Jones reflected, his voice breaking ever so slightly. "It makes for a better community when we support each other. I am proud to be able to do that."

That Mr. Jones has done well in his life is an understatement. His start in life, as one of 12 children to sharecropper parents in rural Missouri, is about as humble as they come. "We owned practically nothing. I was working in the fields at seven years old. We knew hunger. But we learned the value of hard work and a dollar. Starting when I was around 11 or 12 years old, my daydream was to make money in business and give back to the community." Mr. Jones, the first and only member of his family to finish high school and go on the college, credits two teachers with helping him succeed in school and then, later, as a stockbroker.

"I was stunned when Floyd told us that he was doing this and was unprepared for the magnitude of it," reflects long-time Northwest Harvest CEO, Rotondo. "I was

especially moved by his personal story of his family struggling in the depression and what a difference an organization like Northwest Harvest would have made. I am so honored, humbled and energized by Floyd's extraordinary kindness and generosity. This will have such a positive impact on our agency and the lives of hundreds of thousands of people for decades to come!"

Adding extra poignancy to this gift is that it came on Dr. Martin Luther King Jr's birthday, a National Day of Service.

If Northwest Harvest used his entire gift today, it would provide close to 23 million nourishing meals! Because the gift will be left to Northwest Harvest in Mr. Jones' will, it will be added to an existing endowment at Northwest Harvest as the **Floyd and Delores Endowed Fund**.

The exact amount of the bequest, which will create this endowed fund, depends on the future performance of securities markets, but it is conservatively estimated to be about \$5 million. Northwest Harvest will invest the principal sum and use the income from that investment to procure and deliver food for families in need. The income is expected to come in at approximately \$200,000 per year, enough to provide more than 900,000 meals every year at today's costs.

According to Mr. Jones, Frank Minton, a former board member of Northwest Harvest and one of the world's leading experts on planned giving, was instrumental in helping inspire and set up this gift in the most beneficial way possible for all concerned.

Mr. Jones added, "It's going to work



out awfully well. I'll pay some taxes but less than I might. My family approves, and they'll be fine. I'll do as much good as possible for about 20 nonprofits, and our entire society benefits. I also know my late wife, Delores, would be tickled. I feel very good about this."

Floyd and his late wife, Delores Haglund Jones, have given away millions of dollars to various causes, including Virginia Mason Medical Center, the ACLU, the University of Washington, KCTS, Planned Parenthood, and others.

CEO Rotondo truly appreciates the full-circle moment of this extraordinary gesture. "I can't help thinking that Floyd's experience, his parents struggling to feed their family during hard times, was very much like many of the people who come to our food banks. And now, years later, look what he's able to do. It's such a profound testament to hope, hard work, determination, and the American dream. Thank you, Floyd!"

"Families are seeking more fresh fruits, produce, and dairy products. At times our donors don't have as much and it varies from week to week. We appreciate the assistance we get from Northwest Harvest."

—VOA Sultan Food Bank,
Snohomish County

Art from the Heart

It's become a Northwest Harvest tradition: Every year, schools, churches, other organizations and individuals hand-make valentine cards for our donors and volunteers. This year, several 6th - 8th graders at The Northwest School, inspired by their ceramics teacher, Randolph Silver, decided to go 3-D! They made 65 of these beautiful, heart-shaped, glazed ceramic boxes. According to Mr. Silver, his students were "fired" up to make these after



volunteering at Northwest Harvest's Kent Warehouse. Students, parents and teachers from The Northwest School have been volunteering at Northwest Harvest for the past 15 years. Thank you!

Growing Connections

Growing Connections is a program of Northwest Harvest that seeks to provide resources and support for food programs to implement strategies for making fresh produce more available to clients.

Growing Connections seeks to facilitate the development of community relationships that increase the amount of fresh, nutritious food to clients and bolster the hunger relief system across the state. We provide consultations, regional workshops, conference calls, and a wide range of resources that can support Farm-to-Food Bank efforts. Our 'Notes from the Field' relate inspiring stories of success and challenge and offer unique ideas and best practices.

We are also excited to announce the launch of the Growing Connections Produce Portal. This is an initiative meant to connect growers with hunger relief agencies in an easy and straightforward way. A grower creates a listing when they have produce available for donation or for sale. A food program's volunteer or staff can see listings in their area and respond. We hope this site will help increase the amount of diverse and fresh produce available to food program clients, as well as bring support to local agriculture and build a stronger community.

Visit northwestharvest.org/growing-connections to access resources and learn more!



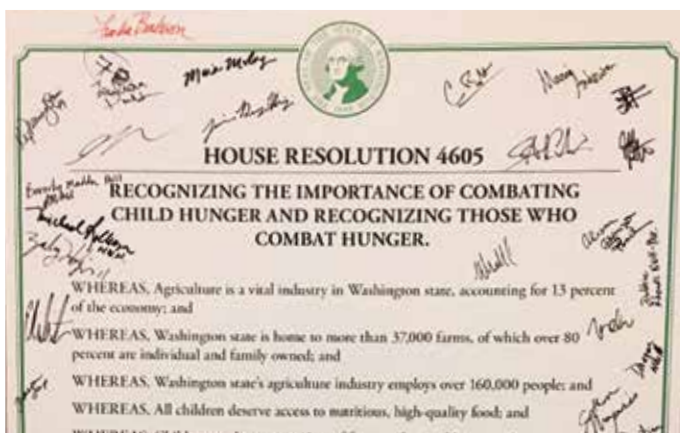
HUNGER ACTION DAY TAKES THE FIGHT FOR HEALTHY COMMUNITIES TO OLYMPIA

On January 23, 2017, nearly 150 advocates (all decked out in the day's signature orange) gathered at Olympia's Capitol Building to take part in Hunger Action Day. Advocates from across the state, including a faction of Northwest Harvest staff and supporters, made an impact by meeting with representatives and staff from 31 legislative districts to highlight the current legislative bills regarding hunger in Washington.

We asked for their support on anti-hunger legislation, such as "Breakfast After the Bell," which helps hungry students have better access to breakfast at school, and to restore funding for the "Regional Market's Program," which connects local farmers to school meal programs, bolstering both nutrition and the state's agriculture economy.

Collectively our voices and presence, bright with orange, resonated throughout the Capitol that day. Thanks to all who participated for lending your voice to the fight against hunger!

For a complete overview of state and federal anti-hunger legislation, please visit: northwestharvest.org/legislative-updates.



Taking Action for Hungry Washingtonians

Anyone can be a champion for those struggling with hunger. Advocating can be as simple as writing a postcard or forwarding an email, yet change thousands of lives. Our thanks to every citizen who has taken action on behalf of hungry Washingtonians this year! We hope you will continue to join us as we take on new challenges in Olympia and DC to help fight hunger in our state. Here's a quick overview of what we are working on during the 2017 State Legislative Session.

Our budget priorities include restoring funding to programs that help Washington farmers grow sustainable businesses, while improving access to nutritious and locally grown food for all Washingtonians, and a capital budget request to help schools purchase and update their kitchens to cook meals from scratch. We're also excited to continue the work on passing legislation that will increase participation in school breakfast, and we hope to pass legislation that will help us have a better picture of food insecurity and the performance of federal nutrition programs here in Washington. You can find all the details about our 2017 food and nutrition priorities at northwestharvest.org/background-on-the-issues.

"Our clients are very interested in fresh produce, often more than dry goods. They love the potatoes, apples, onions, oranges—we have no problem giving those items out every week in the community."

—VOAWW - Bitter Lake, King County

EVENTS

WASHINGTON
WESTERN | CENTRAL | EASTERNMore events and
up-to-the-minute details at:
northwestharvest.orgSEATTLE MAGAZINE
BRUNCH RUNSATURDAY, APR. 8, 7:00
A.M. - 12:00 P.M.

Seattle is all about good food and delicious drinks, so grab a friend and run, walk, or stroll the most beautiful 5K in Seattle! Each participant in Seattle magazine's Brunch Run will receive a Brunch Run t-shirt, Bloody Marys or mimosas, as well as brunch bites from Seattle area restaurants. Get your tickets at www.seattlemag.com/seattle-magazines-brunch-run.

GLOW FOR HUNGER FUN RUN—
SPOKANE

FRIDAY, MAY 12

Fluorescent face paint and glow in the dark gear turn this Spokane fun run for kids into the ultimate race to beat hunger. Join us and up to 1,000 elementary school kids on May 12!

CRUSH HUNGER—SPOKANE

THURSDAY, MAY 25, 6:00 - 10:00 P.M.

Sample fantastic wines from across the globe and tasty bites from local food trucks. \$40 per person; tickets available at: northwestharvest.org/crush-hunger.

ROOT OUT HUNGER

NORTHWEST HARVEST
50TH ANNIVERSARY

SATURDAY, APR. 22, 2017

This April, Northwest Harvest commemorates our 50th year with enormous gratitude for the support of the caring community that has made all of our work possible over the decades.

Please join us for an evening of inspiration, delicious offerings and a call against hunger! Find out more and get your tickets at 501auctions.com/NWH.

With thanks to Boeing, Alaska Airlines, National Frozen Foods, Amazon.com, and CenturyLink for their sponsorship of this event.



CenturyLink®



THANK YOU, EVENT SUPPORTERS!

Each year, Washington's bankers come together to help fight hunger in our community. The fourth annual Bankers Care Food Drive with Washington Bankers Association was a tremendous success, nearly doubling last year's proceeds and raising enough funds to provide more than 469,750 meals for hungry people across our state. Our thanks to Washington Bankers Association, KOMO News, Seattle Refined, and everyone who gave to help our neighbors in need! Your support makes a great impact!

This past December's 16th annual KING 5 Home Team Harvest raised a total of **4.4 million meals!** Such an impact is only made possible through the combined efforts of generous individuals, businesses, and families of every shape and size, all committed to helping our neighbors in need.

In Yakima and the Tri-Cities, the NBC Right Now HomeTown Harvest food drive raised almost **85,000 meals.** Our deepest thanks to the donors, sponsors and

volunteers of these and other events for your work in the fight against hunger!



THANKS, YAKIMA AREA SCHOOLS!

This year's Kids For Cans event grew to 28 schools that were all challenged to collect more non-perishable food and monetary donations than the other schools in the Yakima area. More than 46,400 pounds were collected. The event will help Northwest Harvest provide more than 35,690 meals!

St. Paul Cathedral School won this year's challenge with a ratio of 32.3 pounds collected per student. They received an appearance from KIMA-TV's Alan Sillence and Scott Stovall and will be displaying the Kids For Cans trophy for one year. **Congratulations to St. Paul's and a big thank you to all the participating schools!**



This is Eddie. For seven years, this young donor has brought his wagon full of donations to Northgate Mall in support of KING 5 Home Team Harvest. Eddie's mom works in the public schools and sees hungry young students daily.

No one is too young to make a difference! Thank you, Eddie!



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HUNGER STOPS HERE.



MB • 02/17 • CP

Affirming Our Core Values

After a long, difficult, and emotional year of campaigns and elections, our state and nation must find a way to heal. The election brought to light our differences; we owe it to ourselves and to our future generations to have honest, heartfelt, and respectful conversations about our country's needs and the solutions to move all of us towards prosperity together.

Northwest Harvest will continue to work towards our vision of ending hunger in Washington by leading the fight for hungry people statewide to have access to nutritious food while respecting their

dignity and promoting good health. We will continue to provide and ask our partners to give our nutritious food freely—no questions asked—to anyone who comes to our doors in need of food, and we will continue to advocate for the policies and smart investments of public dollars into efforts that end hunger's root causes in poverty and disparities. With our advocacy, we seek the creation of opportunities for all Washingtonians to achieve the stability and prosperity that we all deserve.

"A woman called the other day that had come to the food bank a few years ago. She also received other services from other departments in our agency. She called to say how much we helped her and how fondly she remembers her treatment while coming in for services. She has gone on to get a college degree and now lives in Portland. It is really great when someone calls or stops by to remember us fondly."

—Multi-Service Center, King County

WAYS TO GIVE

DONATE

Whether your gift is cash, stock or loose change, your generous support makes a big difference. With our purchasing power, a gift of just 67 cents can provide a nutritious meal for a family of three!

CREATE A LEGACY TO END HUNGER

You can name Northwest Harvest in your will, life insurance, living trust or IRA. You can also make a difference with a gift of stocks and bonds, or even property. Contact Todd Girouard, Donor Relations Manager, at 206.923.7441 or toddg@northwestharvest.org.

SET UP A RECURRING GIFT

Making a monthly or quarterly gift is easier on your budget and is a great way to provide sustained support for Northwest Harvest throughout the year. A \$10 monthly gift provides a meal a day for the entire year! To set up a recurring gift, visit northwestharvest.org/recurring-giving or call our Development Team at 206.923.7480.