

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.

Fight to End Hunger Starts Upstream

A message from Chief Executive Officer Shelley Rotondo

At Northwest Harvest, we've strengthened our efforts in leading the fight to end hunger in Washington. We continue to be an expert voice on public policy priorities that impact access to affordable, nutritious food, and now, we are using our expertise in hunger to move policy priorities that work towards ending poverty.

Hunger does not exist in a vacuum: it is a byproduct of poverty. Hunger exists when households lack the income and resources they need to meet their basic needs. Meals will be skipped if it means the money for food must otherwise be spent on rent, medicine, or other necessities. If we want to end hunger, then we must make sure that households have a sound economic floor on which to stand and work their way towards stability and prosperity.

Our secondary support agenda prioritizes legislative and budget issues in the areas of housing and homelessness, access to affordable health care, and increasing economic security. We do not consider ourselves experts on the technical

details of these issues—but these issues are priorities for us because of the direct impact they have on hunger.

During the state legislative session, we supported the work of housing coalitions and family support advocates to expand resources for housing and homelessness programs and strengthen cash assistance for families with children. Our federal advocacy works to protect Medicaid and access to affordable, quality health care.

When an issue is listed on our secondary support agenda, Northwest Harvest is making the commitment to educate lawmakers, our network, and the general public about the connection between the issue and hunger. We speak from our core knowledge base and the experiences we hear from clients and partner agencies; our focus is still on ending hunger in Washington, and to do that, we must end poverty.



Shelley



A Mother's and Father's Day Gift From Northwest Harvest

Northwest Harvest was very excited to give out over \$360,000 worth of premium, organic, non-GMO infant formula to its network of food banks across Washington. Each food bank receiving the gifted formula has been directed to freely and generously provide it to any of their clients with infants.

The inspiration for this gift is to honor our outgoing Hunger Response Network Director, Bonnie Baker, who (after 24 years of working in the emergency food arena) is set to retire this coming fall. This gift is her way of saying "thank you" to all the food bank partners throughout Washington for their tireless work and dedication to improving the health and wellbeing of their communities. It's also another way to make a positive impact on families with infants throughout our state – helping ensure that our youngest are receiving the critical nutrients needed for proper growth and development.

"Every day, we're so impressed by the intense, thoughtful, and dedicated work our partners give at the local level," said Baker. "We are touched by the compassion they show to families in crisis, by the love and generosity they show to strangers in need, and by the countless hours of work they put into strengthening our communities."

Northwest Harvest received the formula at a significantly-reduced rate from Chris Blake, Chief Operations Officer at the National Diaper Bank Network. Northwest Harvest would also like to thank Eastside Baby Corner for their role in making this gift happen.

"We have a father/daughter living in their car that started coming to food bank. They are struggling in many ways but being able to access fresh food has helped them immensely with being able to cook fresher/healthier meals in partnership with the safe parking program at the church [where they park]. This has helped them be able to focus more on getting into permanent housing and working on their longer term goals."

—Hopelink - Redmond, King County

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"Anyone who seeks help deserves it."

—Ruth Velozo, Former Executive
Director of Northwest Harvest

For 50 years, Northwest Harvest has provided food to anyone in need in a manner that respects their dignity. We don't ask questions and we don't discriminate. We want all who are in need to feel welcomed.

Currently, many of our newest neighbors in need are receding into the shadows, afraid to ask for help despite being hungry. National news stories have reported how immigrants, regardless of their legal status in the United States, have withdrawn from food assistance programs like SNAP and school meals. A few of our partners, particularly those near the Canadian border, have noticed as much as a 46% decline in Latino clients. These reports tell us that the fear of deportation is driving many immigrants to withdraw from services when they may need help the most.

We are not experts in immigration law or policy, but we are experts in fighting hunger with dignity and respect for those in need. Northwest Harvest is actively building coalitions and facilitating trainings for food banks on the topic of protecting immigrant access to food assistance. We've disseminated information about individual legal rights, provided tips on safeguarding data collected from



immigrant program participants, and developed welcoming signs in numerous languages to let immigrant communities know that they are welcome at the food bank. Additionally, we have built a statewide committee of emergency food providers to monitor and analyze trends so we can tell the stories of what is happening in our immigrant communities throughout the state.

We hope our efforts provide reassurance that our nutritious food is available to all in need. No one should go hungry because they are afraid to ask for help.

Northwest Harvest to Host 2017 Closing the Hunger Gap Conference

Closing the Hunger Gap (CTHG) is a national network of organizations and individuals working to expand hunger relief efforts beyond food distribution, and towards strategies that promote social justice and address the root causes of hunger.

CTHG envisions a time when all people can determine their own futures, when nutritious food is recognized as a human right, and when there is a political will to end hunger and its root causes. Forward-thinking food banks

and their partners across the country are dramatically reimagining their work to include nutrition education, culinary job training, small business incubation, connecting farmers to food pantries and institutional buyers, and so much more.

Northwest Harvest is excited to be hosting this year's national conference on **September 11-13** in Tacoma, WA. This year's conference brings together more than 500 attendees representing emergency food providers, farms, and nonprofit organizations focused on

health, education, and food justice. The conference will be a vibrant, diverse, and inspiring event where attendees have ample time to learn new skills, discuss innovative programs, and network with their peers.

Both Northwest Harvest and the CTHG National Network welcome your participation. If you would like to learn more about the 2017 CTHG conference, please visit thehungergap.org/2017-conference.

ROOT OUT HUNGER

NORTHWEST HARVEST 50TH ANNIVERSARY



Northwest Harvest commemorated 50 years of fighting hunger by raising over \$425,000 at our inaugural Root Out Hunger event on Saturday, April 22. Root Out Hunger celebrated the positive impact Northwest Harvest has made in communities throughout the state, as well as honored those committed to improving the health and nutrition of those affected by hunger and poverty.

“Northwest Harvest was just overwhelmed by the support that we received at our 50th event,” said the agency’s CEO, Shelley Rotondo. “We are truly grateful for the generosity of the people and businesses that joined us in improving the health and wellbeing of our communities.” Rotondo added, “Every dollar we raised works to build a healthier, hunger-free Washington.”

Focusing the event on childhood nutrition, Northwest Harvest received gifts totaling over \$100,000 immediately after Dr. Benjamin Danielson of Seattle’s Odessa Brown Children’s Clinic accepted the 2017 Northwest Harvest Ruth Velozo Award.

Dr. Danielson addressed the issues surrounding health, nutrition, and childhood development during his acceptance remarks. “Our clinic exists in sistership with Northwest Harvest, because we have learned the lessons that Northwest Harvest has been teaching

and solving for 50 years. That food is elemental to the thriving of communities. Food is foundational to every other thing you want to do to lift up communities.” Danielson added, “A child cannot learn and cannot feed its mind when their stomach is empty.” (If you would like to view highlights of this event – including the full remarks by Dr. Danielson, please visit northwestharvest.org/fifty-years.)

Northwest Harvest’s 50th anniversary premier sponsors are The Boeing Company and Alaska Airlines. Root Out Hunger sponsors included: National Frozen Foods, CenturyLink, and Amazon.com.

Additional sponsors of the event included: UPS, WSECU, ZVNBGRN Funds, Holland America, Baird, United Healthcare, Banner Bank, Clark Nuber, Coldwell Banker Danforth, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Pugh Capital Management, Seattle Children’s, Tree Top, Inc, and Vulcan Inc.

In-kind donors included: Grand Hyatt, Tiffany & Co., Canlis, El Gaucho, Johnson Barrow Co., Seattle Chocolates, Top Pot Doughnuts, Sigillo Cellars, Sun Liquor, Bellevue Brewing, FinnRiver Farm and Cidery, Chateau Ste. Michelle, William Church Winery, David LeClaire, and Herbivore Botanicals.

Northwest Harvest thanks all its Root Out Hunger sponsors and contributors for making such a positive impact in communities around the state.

Companies and individuals who would still like to support Northwest Harvest’s childhood nutrition programs, can do so by contacting the Northwest Harvest Development Team at (206) 923-7441 or donorrelations@northwestharvest.org.



“Food is elemental to the thriving of communities.”

—Dr. Benjamin Danielson of Seattle’s Odessa Brown Children’s Clinic





"Thanks to Northwest Harvest, I'm able to help families in my community every day. To serve them and be there with a smile is the greatest thing I can do."
—Cecilia Chavez, Head of Operations, Toppenish Food Bank



Dr. Benjamin Danielson and Cecilia Chavez

EVENTS

WASHINGTON
WESTERN | CENTRAL | EASTERN**CENTURYLINK BACKPACK BUDDIES FOOD DRIVE**

JUNE 5- 16

For every \$1 you give during the CenturyLink Food Drive, CenturyLink will provide a match for up to \$1 million. See details at northwestharvest.org/centurylink-food-drive.

**SEATTLE MARINERS FIGHT HUNGER**

SATURDAY, JUNE 24

For 29 years, the Mariners have hosted the Fight

Hunger event prior to an M's game. Volunteers and staff collect food and funds from fans as they enter the stadium. This year the Houston Astros come to town for the 7:10 p.m. game.

RED, WHITE & BREW

JULY 27, 7 P.M. - 10 P.M.

Join Seattle Magazine's tasting event of the summer: Red, White & Brew. Now in its sixth year, the event honors the winning wineries featured in Seattle Magazine's Best Washington Wine Awards, selected by a panel of the top local sommeliers and wine professionals. Portion of proceeds benefit Northwest Harvest. More information and tickets available at: seattlemag.com/red-white-brew-2017.

**TACOMA RAINIERS - NORTHWEST HARVEST NIGHT AT THE BALLPARK**

SATURDAY, AUGUST 11

Join us for the 2nd annual Northwest Harvest Night at the Ballpark as the Tacoma Rainiers take on the Reno Aces at Cheney Stadium. We'll be collecting donations of non-perishable food and cash at the entry gates. See you there!

SAVE THE DATE

FOR YAKIMA'S SIGNATURE EVENT!



SATURDAY, OCTOBER 14

6 P.M. - 9 P.M. SELAH CIVIC CENTER

**THANK YOU, EVENT SUPPORTERS!**

To everyone who contributed in any way, thank you for making a difference!

GiveBIG

During The Seattle Foundation's one-day, online fundraising event, nearly 1,000 supporters donated to Northwest Harvest. In total, Northwest Harvest received over \$300,000 in GiveBIG donations. To all who GaveBIG, thank you! Your support allows us to provide millions of nutritious meals across Washington. A special **thank you** goes to Wyncote Foundation NW for helping us reach our goal.

FORD PEANUT BUTTER DRIVE

Ford auto dealers throughout Washington partnered with Northwest Harvest and your local food bank to collect peanut butter to help feed kids during the summer.

GLOW FOR HUNGER

The 3rd Annual Glow for Hunger kids run is in the books. Close to 1000 kids and their parents participated in this epic 1-mile course lighted with 45+ glowing structures. This year's event helped raise enough money to provide over 80,000 meals!

CRUSH HUNGER

Thank you for joining us at Spokane's signature event! We gratefully acknowledge Banner Bank for their sponsorship.

TOP POT NATIONAL DOUGHNUT DAY

Nearly 20 Top Pot Doughnut cafes around Puget Sound celebrated their favorite holiday by collecting food and funds in support of Northwest Harvest.

Hunger Doesn't Take A Summer Vacation

Fruits, vegetables, and well-rounded meals are crucial to helping our kids grow big and strong through the summer months. Without the meals provided throughout the school year, families are left picking up the pieces. Summer meal programs are here to help.

Summer meal programs across the state provide nutritious meals to kids ages 18 and younger. Northwest Harvest works with partners around

the state to help families locate the nearest summer meal site. These sites, usually in park settings, provide areas for kids to congregate and eat a healthy meal together.

Unfortunately, there are many communities without these summer meal sites. To combat this problem, Northwest Harvest started the Kids Summer Food Club. Working with hunger relief partners located in areas with no summer meal sites, Kids Summer Food Club provides kid-friendly food bags in these areas. This summer, 18 programs around the state are providing summer meals through this program, ensuring that health, not hunger, is part of summer break.

USDA
United States Department of Agriculture**School's Out!****POWER UP**
for
Summer Fun!**SUMMER MEALS for KIDS & TEENS**
Being Served in Your CommunityTo find a nearby site:
Call 1-866-348-6479Go to www.fns.usda.gov/summerfoodrocks
Text FOOD to 877-877 operated by a USDA partnerOpen to all children 18 and younger
NO Enrollment, NO Cost!



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HUNGER STOPS HERE.



MB • 05/17 • CP

Yakima's First Teen Board Of Directors

This team has done a wonderful job educating and engaging other students in the community to help in the fight against hunger! They are currently recruiting other high school teens to fill available spots on the Board! If you know someone that might be interested, have them go to northwestharvest.org/central-washington for an info sheet and application.



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.

"A young teen who we had helped a few years back showed up with a neighbor who had just moved in next door. He said, 'When he said he didn't have any food, I said I know a place that can help and showed him the way down here.'"

—Algona/Pacific Food Pantry, Klickitat County