

WHAT WILL IT TAKE TO CUT HUNGER IN HALF?

A message from Chief Executive Officer, Thomas Reynolds

My 11-year old son is learning about salmon at school. A large aquatic tank in his school's main entrance recently contained small, red-hued salmon eggs. These eggs eventually gave way to tiny salmon. A recent visit to a stream running through a local park offered a glimpse into the arduous journey salmon make on their return to spawning areas. My son is learning about the connections between our environment and our local food system. He is learning to appreciate where food comes from and appreciate the complexity of supporting healthy ecosystems.

I have deep respect for farmers, ranchers, and fishers in Washington state who play a vital role in our food system. Since returning to Seattle last summer after more than a decade away, I have spent a significant amount of time with a variety of food-producing communities, as they provide much of the best loved items Northwest Harvest distributes to food banks across Washington.

It might be hard to imagine, but in a state so robustly rich with agricultural assets, hunger remains a fixture in our society. One in eight Washingtonians suffer the indignity of struggling with hunger. One in five children go to school with the stress of not knowing if they'll be able to eat dinner that night. Such extreme disparity illustrates a lack of justice facing many of our local communities.

We must address this urgent need by supplying food for dinner tables across the state—1.6 million Washingtonians accessed food banks last year. However, it's going to take more than just distributing food to food banks to address the underlying causes of hunger.

Northwest Harvest is working with people and communities who struggle with hunger. We are bringing together business leaders, policy-makers, growers, advocates, donors, and volunteers to identify longer-term solutions to reduce the number of people who are at risk of hunger over the next decade.

Starting this spring, we are asking a wide array of stakeholders what they believe it will take to **cut hunger in half over the next decade**. By building a database of ideas and innovations for sustainable solutions and taking action on the most promising concepts, Northwest Harvest seeks to unlock the potential of Washington to be a beacon of equity for all in this wonderful state we call home.

I'm looking forward to my first spring in Washington in many, many years. I've always found spring to be an incredibly hopeful season.

Best regards,




GIFTS OF ALL SHAPES AND SIZES

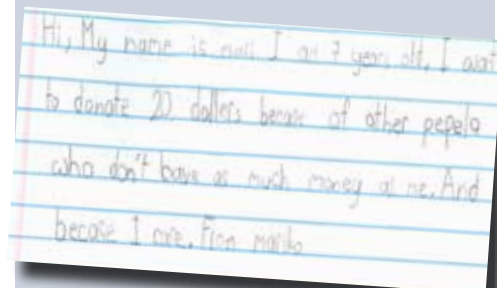
There are many reasons why we support mission-driven organizations. We give because we believe in the mission. We give because we can relate to the cause. Or we give because we can no longer stand by and do nothing when good people in our community are struggling.

Recently, we received a gift with a handwritten letter from a child about why she made a gift:

"Hi, my name is Mari and I am 7 years old. I want to donate 20 dollars because of other people who don't have as much money as me. And because I care."

This spirit of giving is touching and moving and teaches us that there is no such thing as a small gift. A gift that comes from the heart and with the wish that it makes someone else's life or day just a little bit better, is in fact a large gift.

We invite you to "match" Mari's gift. We'd love to show Mari how her caring heart inspired others to make a difference. Thank you.



"We supply our clients with free fresh fruits, vegetables, breads, lentils, beans, rice, oats and other nutritious staples in a farmer's market-style format. Neighbors are offered easy, low-cost recipes, food preparation ideas and plenty of samples to try! The market draws people into conversations on ways to incorporate affordable foods into healthy, tasty meals (and is) open during the evening for working folks. After visiting us, people walk over to the Kendall Yards Market, held on the same evenings, to enjoy live music and entertainment with their families. Together, with your help, truly we are creating community. Thank you."

—Our Place Community Ministries, Spokane County

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NORTHWEST HARVEST AWARDED SOLAR POWER GRANT BY PUGET SOUND ENERGY

*Green Power Program funds solar
projects for 5 local organizations*

Thanks to Puget Sound Energy, Northwest Harvest was one of five recipients of a solar energy grant. PSE awarded a total of \$350,000 for the installation of solar panels at our Kent Warehouse, Community Action of Skagit County, Island Senior Resources, Salvation Army Bremerton, and the Upper Kittitas County Senior Center. "Whether it's providing food or emergency shelter, the organizations that were selected have a history of helping people in their communities, which is aligned with what's important to PSE," says Bob Stolarski, PSE director of customer energy management and renewables. "We're excited that funding these solar projects will help reduce the energy costs for our recipients, so they can put more money toward supporting their core mission while helping to reduce their carbon footprint."



Photo courtesy Puget Sound Energy

With this solar energy grant, we will be able to reduce our operating budget by over \$5,000 per year and also recoup tremendous savings in state incentives, for a cumulative savings of \$145,000 over the next 15 years. "Northwest Harvest is very appreciative of this grant from PSE," says Thomas Reynolds, Northwest Harvest's CEO. "We know that for every dollar we can save in keeping our lights on and our food cold, is an extra dollar that goes toward helping feed those in our community who are suffering from hunger."

2018 Sound Food Uprising Summit

In February, Northwest Harvest participated in the Beecher's Foundation Sound Food Uprising Summit. This event hosted over 350 Northwest-area food advocates—joining together to share ideas of how food is society's primary ingredient in justice.

Northwest Harvest's COO, Eu-wanda Eagans, was a panelist in a powerful session addressing equity in the food system, overcoming corporate interests, recognizing privilege, and developing innovative solutions that, in order to be successful, must better incorporate voices of those most-adversely impacted by a long, systemic history of disenfranchisement.

Northwest Harvest thanks the Beecher's Foundation and all other participating organizations who recognize hunger is not just an absence of food—it's an absence of justice.



Top: Northwest Harvest staff share goals for a food future. Above: COO Eu-wanda Eagans (second from right) joins the panel on equity in the food system.

"A client comes in with her aging father for many years. Life changes and this woman asks if she can help by volunteering at the food bank. Long story short, this humble woman is on-site twice a week and was in tears after her warm welcome to 'the family' of food bank volunteers. We are lucky to have a volunteer that understands our clients' challenges so we can do a better job."

—Edmonds Food Bank, Snohomish County

"BREAKFAST AFTER THE BELL" BILL PASSED

PERSEVERANCE BRINGS A WIN FOR WASHINGTON SCHOOL KIDS

In February, Gov. Inslee signed into law HB 1508, the Washington Kids Ready to Learn Act. Sponsored by Rep. Monica Stonier and passed out of the Legislature with overwhelming bipartisan support, this legislation will help more low-income students get the fuel they need to focus on learning.

This is a story of perseverance. When this bill was first introduced in 2013, Washington state ranked 38th in the nation for low-income student participation in school breakfast. Over the last five years, the bill has been reintroduced but failed to pass, and hungry students have paid the price: today, we rank 45th.

Breakfast is a proven effective tool for improving test scores, reducing childhood obesity, and decreasing behavioral outbursts. Most Washington schools offer a school breakfast, and just like school lunch, it is free or reduced-price for income eligible students. But when schools offer breakfast before the start of the school day, kids can't access the program: school buses arrive late or often a child doesn't want to self-identify their need by going inside to eat while their friends play on the playground. When schools shift to offering breakfast during the school day, breakfast programs run more efficiently and participation increases: it just makes sense to prepare and sell breakfasts when kids are present and ready to eat.

HB 1508 directs high-poverty schools to make this shift. It targets only those schools where there is a significant number of students who don't know where their next meal will come from so we can ensure that they get a nutritious breakfast at school.



Champions of breakfast! Thank you to our food five friends, a group of five House legislators dedicated to passing legislation to improve our food system, especially on issues related to hunger. Pictured: Rep. Riccelli, Rep. Hudgins, and Rep. Stonier. Reps. Hudgins and Stonier have also been the primary sponsors of Breakfast After the Bell legislation.

1508 also strengthens the potential for partnerships between local growers and schools by restoring critically needed funding for staff at the Washington State Department of Agriculture who develop resources, provide technical assistance, and create relationship building opportunities to help farmers sell directly to schools, child care centers, restaurants, and other institutions.

We're proud to have been at the core of a broad coalition of stakeholders who have been calling on the Legislature to pass breakfast after the bell legislation. Our efforts included public testimony, mobilizing our statewide network of advocates, and helping to achieve record numbers of bill supporters documented in the bill's legislative history. Our kids and our growers deserve the best—thank you to all of you for helping make 2018 the year that we make a difference for our kids!

"Many clients are highly anxious about the immigrant issues occurring at this time and food insecurity is one more struggle they are experiencing if services like ours are not available. The ability to provide food for their families is one stable they can count on and the thankfulness we are seeing have increased in recent months."

—Maple Valley Food Bank,
Adams County

Anti-Hunger Advocates Show Force in Olympia for Hunger Action Day

During the legislative session, the Anti-Hunger & Nutrition Coalition hosts Hunger Action Day, a lobby day in Olympia that highlights issues facing hungry families across Washington. On February 5, 2018, Northwest Harvest joined partners and hundreds of fellow advocates to engage our legislators in the fight to end hunger in Washington.

This year's Hunger Action Day, in addition to featuring an educational training session on the issues, included some particularly special moments. The Northwest Harvest contingent of advocates was made up of not only staff and volunteers but also three advocates from our food bank who made the journey to Olympia to speak directly with legislators about their personal struggles with hunger.

We also had the opportunity to thank three of our school breakfast champions in person. Representatives Marcus Riccelli, Zack Hudgins, and Monica Stonier were instrumental in pushing through legislation to make Breakfast After the Bell possible. Breakfast After the Bell enables schools across the state to better feed more of their students and give them the energy they need to succeed in school. As Rep. Stonier said, "It is time 1.1 million kids are prepared to learn when they come to school." And as we celebrate this win and thank everyone who picked up the cause, it is important to keep looking ahead. As Rep. Hudgins emphasized, "Don't stop pushing... Let's look at the next fight."

We can continue the fight to help hungry students and families by supporting our legislative priorities. We also support legislation (HB 1570, HB 2578/SB 5407) that impacts anti-poverty issues that are closely tied to hunger, because one way to fight hunger is to ensure that people have adequate, affordable housing. For a complete overview of state and federal anti-hunger legislation, please visit: northwestharvest.org/legislative-updates.

Thank you to all for lending your voice to the fight against hunger! We invite everyone to speak out on hunger issues at Hunger Action Day and throughout the year. Learn more at northwestharvest.org/take-action.

ADVOCACY ISSUE WATCH

Hunger persists in households that lack sufficient income and resources to make ends meet. If we want to end hunger in our state, we must ensure that all Washingtonians have their basic needs met.

The legislative priorities on Northwest Harvest's primary advocacy agenda for the 2018 Session of the Washington State Legislature include helping more students access school breakfast, restoring the promise of the regional markets program, making the most out of school meals, and protecting and preserving our food safety net.

Our support agenda addresses legislation on basic needs issues that affect struggling families, including housing and homelessness, access to affordable health care, and promoting economic stability.

Sign up on our website for advocacy alerts to get the latest legislative updates, and learn more about each of these priorities at northwestharvest.org/background-on-the-issues.

"We have a single mother that comes in with her two children, one of who has had some very trying medical conditions. For that reason, they try their best to only eat organic food with minimal to no preservatives. She told me the other day that having the food from local farms and gardens has helped her be able to feed her family food that she normally couldn't afford since much of that type of food is typically more expensive."

—Hopelink Redmond, King County

NORTHWEST HARVEST DONOR LEAVES LEGACY OF KINDNESS AND COMPASSION

With Gift of \$5 Million, Seattle's Floyd Jones Makes a Lasting Impact On Local Communities Struggling with Hunger

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 largest single gift in the organization's 50-year history.

"I've done well in my life," Jones told Northwest Harvest's Donor Relations Manager, Todd Girouard, in conversations from last year. "It makes for a better community when we support each other. I am proud to be able to do that."

Northwest Harvest was deeply saddened to hear of his passing on January 5 at the age of 90. For Mr. Jones to say that he had "done well" is an understatement. His start in life, as one of 12 children to sharecropper parents in rural Missouri, was about as humble as they come. "We owned practically nothing," Jones shared with Girouard. "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 became the first of his family to finish high school. He went on to go to college and later had a highly-successful career as a stockbroker.

"Not only is Northwest Harvest heartfully appreciative of this gift, I've been deeply moved by his personal story of his family struggling in the Depression for quite some time," said Thomas Reynolds, Northwest Harvest's CEO.

"I can't help but think what a difference an organization like Northwest Harvest would have made to his community when he was young."



Floyd Jones with his partner, Alene Moris taken at Northwest Harvest's Root Out Hunger gala in 2017.

Mr. Jones has credited Frank Minton, a former Northwest Harvest board member and one of the world's leading experts on planned giving, with setting up this gift in the most beneficial way possible.

"We are so honored, humbled, and energized by Floyd's extraordinary kindness and generosity," said Girouard. "This gift will have such a positive impact on our agency and the lives of hundreds of thousands for years to come,"

The entire Northwest Harvest family appreciates Mr. Jones, his family, as well as his companion of the last 11 years, Alene Moris. "Just weeks ago, Floyd and I talked about so many issues now facing those struggling in today's society," added Reynolds. "I commit our agency to make good on his most recent vision of improving our communities by feeding people today, while addressing the root causes of hunger and poverty for a better tomorrow."

CREATE A LEGACY TO END HUNGER

Turning Floyd's childhood dream into a reality is a shining example to us all. Whether large or small, anyone with the will to leave a life-changing legacy can do so. If you'd like to know more about putting your generous spirit to work, please contact Todd Girouard, Northwest Harvest's Donor Relations Manager, at ToddG@northwestharvest.org or 206.923.7441. The communities you support and the lives that you touch thank you for your generosity.

EVENTS

WASHINGTON
WESTERN | CENTRAL | EASTERN*More events and
up-to-the-minute details at:*
northwestharvest.org**BACON EGGS & KEGS**

MAR. 17-18

Turn Down For Brunch! Bacon Eggs & Kegs returns to CenturyLink Field on March 17 and 18 for the most epic St. Patrick's Day Weekend celebration! Northwest Harvest is excited to be the beneficiary of this delicious event. 30-foot Bloody Mary Bar, anyone? Load up your Mary with everything from tater tots to bacon, enjoy 40+ local breweries, and brunch dishes from Where Ya At Matt, Stacks Burgers, and other local favorites. Don't forget the games, dueling pianos, and more! Purchase your single-day event tickets before they sell out at baconeggsandkegs.com/tickets.

**KING 5
KONNECTED**

THURSDAY, APR. 19

Join KING 5 for



one exciting evening to get connected to nonprofits and individuals who make the Pacific Northwest the unique region that it is. This is your chance to get to know these organizations in an intimate setting with the singular goal to leave the evening feeling informed, inspired, and motivated to take action in a way that is meaningful to you. Tickets on sale now at KING5.com/KONNECTED.

**FORD FEEDS KIDS
PEANUT BUTTER DRIVE**

TUESDAY, MAY 5

Ford auto dealers across WA partner with Northwest Harvest and your local food bank in the Ford Feeds Kids Peanut Butter Drive. Peanut butter is a highly desirable staple for food banks, and we never have enough! May 5-14, local Ford stores are collecting peanut butter to help feed kids during the summer. Mariners' fans attending the May 5 matchup versus the Angels can donate at Safeco Field before the 6:10 p.m. game. See your local Ford dealer or Fordfeedskids.org for details.

GIVEBIG

TUESDAY, MAY 9

It's the final year of The Seattle Foundation's one-day, online fundraising event! Your support will allow us to provide millions of meals across Washington. Watch northwestharvest.org for updates.

GLOW FOR HUNGER FUN RUN

FRIDAY, MAY 11

Fluorescent face paint and glow-in-the-dark gear turn this Spokane kids' fun run into the ultimate race to beat hunger. \$25 general registration and parents of registered kids run for free. Learn more and sign up at: nsplit.com/glowforhunger.

**TOP POT NATIONAL
DOUGHNUT DAY**

FRIDAY, JUNE 1

Join us on June 1 at select Top Pot locations around Puget Sound for National Doughnut Day! To find your closest Top Pot location, visit toppotdoughnuts.com.

**MARINERS FIGHT HUNGER**

SATURDAY, JUNE 16

For more than 30 years, the Mariners have hosted the Fight Hunger event prior to a M's game. Volunteers and staff collect food and funds from fans as they enter the stadium. This year the Boston Red Sox come to town for the 5:15 p.m. game.



SAVE THE DATE
FOR YAKIMA'S SIGNATURE EVENT!



SATURDAY, OCTOBER 13
6 P.M. - 9 P.M. SELAH CIVIC CENTER

THANK YOU, EVENT SUPPORTERS! We could never list them all, but the hundreds of events held each year throughout our state provide tremendous impact across every community we serve. To everyone who contributes in any way, thank you for making a difference!

KIMA KIDS FOR CANS - YAKIMA

Each year the KIMA Kids for Cans school food drive challenge feeds thousands of families across the Yakima area. This year 24 Yakima-area schools collected enough food and funds

to provide 38,650 meals for our neighbors in need! This is up from last year's 35,690 meals!

Christ the Teacher Catholic School

(formerly St. Paul's) won the challenge again this year with an average of 65.8 pounds collected per student! They will be able to keep the traveling KIMA Kids for Cans trophy for another year!

Congratulations to CTCs! And a big thank you to all the participating schools and our sponsor KIMA-TV!

BOEING FOOD & ESSENTIALS

Northwest Harvest is so thankful for our partnership with the Boeing Company and its employees. Boeing has been a financial supporter of ours from the beginning, providing countless meals to our hungry neighbors across the state. The

employees of Boeing have also generously volunteered thousands of hours of their time helping out at our Cherry Street Food Bank and Kent Warehouse.

We are grateful that the Boeing Company is once again holding their annual Boeing Food and Essentials Food Drive to support organizations fighting hunger. We thank Boeing and their employees for their continued support and commitment to making our community a better place for all!



Boeing employee Mo Medford (Ret.) lends a hand at Kent Warehouse.



CTCS won the KIMA Kids for Cans trophy again this year with an average of 65.8 pounds collected per student! Above, Jake Taylor and Alan Sillence from KIMA lead a thank-you celebration for the winning school.



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"We are noticing more single and homeless coming to us for food. This tells us that the economy, at least in the very rural areas of North Clark County, WA, there hasn't been much improvement. New clients are coming to us each week."

—Lewis River Mobile Food Bank,
Clark County

**EVER WISHED YOU COULD GIVE
\$5,000 TO AN ORGANIZATION THAT
YOU LOVE? TRY RECURRING GIVING.**

It's not easy for most of us to make a single gift of \$5,000 to support an organization. However, making many smaller gifts instead of a yearly big gift can make you a substantial donor over time. For instance, if you gave \$25 a month for two years, then increased your gift to \$40 a month for three years, and then up to \$50 a month for five years—in

ten years your lifetime investment in ending hunger will exceed \$5,000!

Recurring giving is easy to set up and saves you from remembering to make regular gifts. Your gift will be made automatically on the first business day of each month. And, you can stop, pause, or change your gift at any time.

Sign up to become a Hunger Hero today at **northwestharvest.org/recurringgiving** or by calling 206.923.7480.

50 YEARS OF COMMUNITY IMPACT

In 2017, Northwest Harvest commemorated 50 years of fighting hunger across Washington—and the tremendous community support that has made our work possible for half a century. We're excited to share our gratitude alongside the highlights of Fiscal Year 2017 in our latest **Annual Report to the Community**. In our 50-year history, we have provided 500 million meals as a direct result of your ongoing support. We look forward to implementing many bold ideas on reducing hunger by half in Washington within the next 10 years. On behalf of our Board of Directors, staff, volunteers, and all those we serve, thank you so much for providing the support that allows this important work to be done!

View the report online at: northwestharvest.org/financials, or contact us at info@northwestharvest.org to request a print copy.



2017
REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY

**50 YEARS OF
COMMUNITY
IMPACT**