



BRIGHTER TOMORROWS FOR EVERYONE

A MESSAGE FROM CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, THOMAS REYNOLDS

Fall is back to school time. In the work that we do, this season brings a lot of attention to kids and hunger. Fact – when there is not enough to eat, it is really hard to learn, and grow, and develop. That tugs at my heart – deeply. I have three children and of course I want the best for them. I want to see all kids, not just my own, thrive and develop and launch successfully into life with the best possible odds at being fantastic and productive citizens and world shapers.

Northwest Harvest supports a lot of programs that are directed towards helping kids get enough healthy food to navigate school and childhood.

This is a clear call to action... join me in ensuring kids have access to healthy food this fall, and all year around.

Wait. I am going to ask you to explore this at another depth. What if society, consciously or not, categorizes people into those deserving of help and those not deserving of help?

WE HAVE A CHANCE TO END CHILD HUNGER ONCE AND FOR ALL

COVID-19 isn't the only public health crisis that continues to threaten our health and challenge our economic recovery – child hunger is too. Since the onset of the pandemic food insecurity has doubled from 1 in 6 families with children to 1 in 3. Families of color have been 1.5 times more likely to experience hunger during the pandemic, worsening pre-existing racial disparities.

The good news is the steps Congress has taken to provide relief -- allowing schools to serve free meals to all children, new EBT benefits (food assistance funds to buy groceries on a card like a debit card) for low-income children, rent relief, and more-- are working to lift families out of poverty.

The newly expanded child tax credit is providing families with an average monthly payment of \$300-\$350, boosting spending in local economies and helping families with basic needs. Initial studies are showing that the first round of child tax credit payments has decreased child hunger rates by nearly 24%. As a result, food hardship for families with children is now the lowest since the pandemic began.

Kimberly is a mother of two school-aged children and a toddler, living in Northeastern Washington. Recently, her husband started

I think it happens all the time. Kids might be more typically viewed as deserving, while other people, possibly adults, can be seen as being in need as a result of their own mistakes.

What about when we start to see kids returning to school, we are moved to respond to all people who struggle with hunger, imparting empathy across the board? What if we embraced the fact that we are all connected? We breathe in the same atmosphere, experience the same changes in weather, want to see brighter tomorrows.

Children, elders, and those in between need not be judged by their social position or physical condition. Rather we can lift them up for their unique story and their incalculable worth. We can think about how our community includes everyone around us.

Best regards,

a new job. The good news is that the job has higher pay, but the bad news is, they now are no longer eligible for SNAP.

“When all is said and done, the increase in income versus the monthly out-of-pocket expenses, specifically healthcare and groceries, the additional income that you were expecting from the new job is almost non-existent because we are no longer able to participate in programs like SNAP.” Kimberly added, “We are receiving the Child Tax Credit and having the money advanced monthly instead of waiting for it until tax refund time is helpful. I believe this is what has made me more comfortable with losing the SNAP benefits. It provides a sense of security with purchasing groceries and other necessities every month.”

An equitable recovery is one that doesn't leave families like Kimberly's behind. We have the opportunity of a lifetime to make investments that will disrupt intergenerational poverty and hunger, improve children's health and academic success, and contribute to our collective prosperity.

As our students go back to school, now is the time for Congress to make these changes permanent so we can have a fighting chance at ending child hunger once and for all.



STARBUCKS & NORTHWEST HARVEST:

Building Equitable Access to Food in Washington Through Volunteerism, Funding, and Food Donation

While our communities work to recover from the COVID, too many Washingtonians are still experiencing food insecurity due to the pandemic's lasting economic impacts. It is estimated that one million Washington residents visited a food bank in the past year. Northwest Harvest and Starbucks are working together in partnership to help address the high rates of food insecurity in local communities.

Starbucks recently announced a \$100,000 Equitable Food Access grant for Northwest Harvest's work to increase access to nutritious food among Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC) communities experiencing high food insecurity rates. Building on Starbucks food bank mobile pantry programs targeted to reach historically underrepresented communities, grants like these will be used to develop localized plans to address equity in food access.

Starbucks also announced a milestone of expanding its FoodShare donation program to all U.S. company-operated stores. The FoodShare program, established in 2017 in Seattle, delivers a surplus of fresh food and pastries to be distributed to local food banks and mobile food pantries. This expansion means nearly 9,000 Starbucks stores will be donating nourishing, ready-to-eat meals to those who need it most. Starbucks FoodShare partnership with Northwest Harvest is critical in helping us meet our goal to procure 90% of the food we distribute through community and corporate donations.

"One of our clients has struggled with homelessness for years. I got a call from him a couple of months ago. He was happy to have settled into a storage container on a landowner's property outside of town. He has power now and has a microwave oven. When he called me, he had just had his bicycle stolen and he could not find a ride to the food bank to get food. I enlisted one of our volunteers who is well connected with his neighbors in his community. He delivered food from the food bank to him and worked with his neighbors to address some of his other needs. Today he appeared at the food bank to show me his newly acquired bicycle given to him by the volunteer's group. It's great to see the community come together to support each other."

— MARYSVILLE COMMUNITY FOOD BANK

Starbucks not only supports Northwest Harvest through its FoodShare and grant funding. Starbucks partners (employees) regularly volunteer to support operations at our SODO Community Market in Seattle.

In June, a team of volunteers from Starbucks came to help bag groceries for customers, greeting them at the door, and sorting deliveries. Among the volunteers were: vice president of US community impact Camille Hymes, director of hunger relief and social impact Jane Maly—who brought a crew from Hazen Highschool in Renton—and senior global responsibility specialist Tyler Smith.



Camille Hymes, vice president of community impact at Starbucks

Thank you Starbucks for your partnership and commitment to ending hunger in Washington State!

PLANNED GIVING: Qualified Charitable Donations

Donors with traditional IRA's who are over 70 ½ years of age are encouraged to consider the Qualified Charitable Distribution for funding their charitable gifts to organizations like Northwest Harvest. Doing so may be a tax-wise move if done prior to any Required Annual Distribution for the year. For example, Mary Smith, 73, has a Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) of \$20,000 for the year and makes Qualified Charitable Distributions totaling \$15,000 from her traditional IRA account prior to taking out any RMD. She can reduce her RMD from \$20,000 to \$5,000. Please consult your financial advisors to learn more about this taxwise move. For inquiries regarding planned giving, contact **Anne S Knapp, CFP®, Senior Planned Giving Officer 206.390.6094** or annek@northwestharvest.org.

EVENTS

WASHINGTON
WESTERN | CENTRAL | EASTERNMore events and up-to-the-minute details at: northwestharvest.org

Mark your calendars! Tune in to KZOK 102.5 on Thursday, November 4th, for the 24th annual Rock the Harvest radiothon!



A month later, join us on December 4th on KING 5 TV for the 21st annual Home Team Harvest and help us meet our goal of raising 21 million meals!

YAKAMA NATION LAND BLESSING



Tribal members Council Vice Chairman Virgil Lewis, Tribal Council Member Gerald Lewis, Phil Rigdon, Superintendent of Department of Natural Resources, Davis Washines, former General Council Chairman and Brady Kent, Agricultural Coordinator joined members of Northwest Harvest Board and staff for the land blessing ceremony July 27, 2021

While Northwest Harvest maintains a statewide presence, our hubs of operation reside on the traditional and stolen lands of the Duwamish Tribe, the Yakama Nation, the Palouse Tribe, and the Spokane Tribe. We acknowledge your presence and ancestral history in our communities, and we are grateful to share space and time with you.

On July 27th, 2021, at the site where we will build our new Yakima Regional Distribution Center and Community Market in the abundant Yakima Valley, our staff and board were invited to a sacred land blessing event by the Yakama Nation's Tribal Council.

The Yakama Reservation in Washington state, known as the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation is made up of Klikitat, Palus, Wallawalla, Wanapam, Wenatchi, Wishram, and Yakama peoples. The reservation covers over 2 million acres, a diverse land that includes 12,280-foot Mount Adams, and "the Yakima River, Medicine Valley, evergreen forests, meadows, Celilo Falls, Fort Simcoe, Columbia River and beautiful rolling hills," according to the Yakama Nation Museum & Cultural Center reports. "We have always honored and respected Mother Nature. She gives us our huckleberries, roots, choke cherries, deer and salmon."

At the land blessing in July, leaders of the Yakama Tribal Council told stories, shared prayer and song in Ichishkíin Sínit, the native language of the Yakama Nation, and spoke about the meaning of partnership and respect for the land and its resources.

The sacred land blessing solidifies our partnership with the Yakama Nation. We will honor this partnership and stay true to our promise of delivering equitable access to healthy and culturally relevant food for all and for free. We affirmed our intention to build on the work that is already being done to combat hunger and poverty in the Yakima Valley, and throughout the state, and to learn from tribal communities' extraordinary community building and self-sufficiency.

Prior to the forced displacement and violent ceasing of 12-million acres of land to white settlers through the Treaty of 1855, the Yakama people had lived in all directions along the Cascade Mountain Range to the Columbia River and beyond. The Yakama people considered this land "given in trust by the Creator for the use of the living – a heritage to be held and protected for unborn generations." The Yakama Nation have lived on these lands since time immemorial, using the entirety of it for wood, water, edible roots and plants, like huckleberries, as well as for fishing and hunting.

Northwest Harvest is making a major investment in growing our operations in Yakima to expand equitable access to food across Washington State, creating upwards of 40 new permanent and living wage jobs, and centering our operations in the heart of the bounteous Yakima Valley; the source of the largest variety of fresh grown produce in the Pacific Northwest.

Thank you, Yakama Nation. We are grateful for the trust and faith put into our organization. We will hold this day in our hearts and minds and honor this partnership in all that we do.



P.O. BOX 12272
SEATTLE, WA 98102
800.722.6924

northwestharvest.org
@NWHarvest

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Interested in learning more about working for Northwest Harvest? Check out our job openings at northwestharvest.org/careers.

IT TAKES MORE THAN FOOD TO END HUNGER

The past few months have brought us reasons to celebrate and to reflect. Our spirits lift as vaccines help us reconnect with friends and family. At the same time, wildfires, heat waves, continued threat from COVID variants and stark inequities in our economy underscore the urgency of getting food where it is needed most and advocating for sustainable and justice-centered systems.

Ending hunger isn't just about distributing food; it demands more from all of us. We must join our voices to advocate for changes in the policies and discriminatory practices that keep people from having enough.

We have seen what generosity can do.

Your financial support of our advocacy efforts ensures that we're hearing directly from our communities. No one better understands the real barriers to accessing nutritious food than folks with lived experience of hunger. Our Community Advisory Network is a group of people across the state who share their experiences of hunger and ideas for solutions.

We're listening and learning with the goal of implementing changes that ensure people – no matter where they live, their race, gender, or sexual orientation – can keep their lights on, rents paid, and bellies full. That is what food justice means, and we are dedicated to seeing it across Washington State.

Join us in our commitment to grow food justice. There is no time to wait. Consider a gift today to support Northwest Harvest at northwestharvest.org/donate, by sending your gift in the enclosed postage-paid envelope, or scanning the QR code below.

SINCE THE PANDEMIC

over 19,000 = VOLUNTEER HOURS AT SODO COMMUNITY MARKET

over 1 million = EMERGENCY FOOD BOXES DISTRIBUTED

30,000 = NEW SUPPORTERS

20 million meals = RAISED BY SUPPORTERS LIKE YOU

SCAN HERE

