

## BUILDING...

A MESSAGE FROM CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, THOMAS REYNOLDS



My life has been built on experiences. Tragic, beautiful, lonely, harmonious, joy-filled – these different moments in my life have shaped me into who I am today. Each of us have a powerful story to share and these stories, built chapter by chapter, connect us deeply.

As Washingtonians, we also have shared stories. In the last chapter, the antagonist was a global pandemic that tragically arrived and summarily changed the way we lived for two years. The accompanying economic crisis unleashed a period of job losses that drove hunger rates to the highest levels in decades.

Through these challenging years, Northwest Harvest never lost sight of our purpose and our plans – to achieve equitable access to nutritious food for all in Washington State and specifically to cut hunger in half by 2028. We recognized the harmful effects of racism and other forms of oppression and sought to counteract them. We ramped up our distribution of fresh, sought-after foods. We kept open our Seattle SODO Community Market by turning it into a fast-moving take-away grocery site. We advocated for additional SNAP benefits and other policy-based protections for people who struggle.

On the horizon is a new chapter. I see it as a time of building, a time of hope. We are building a new distribution center for people who experience hunger across Washington, located in Yakima. A free grocery store is also in the works for Yakima.

We are building out a new just-in-time distribution center in Auburn that will rapidly move fresh foods across Western Washington. We are evaluating additional building projects in Spokane and other parts of the State.

We are also actively engaged in building relationships with community leaders who historically have been left out of planning, design and decision-making processes. We are building supplies of foods that are directly responsive to what is most frequently requested by people who experience food insecurity. We are building our capacity to distribute grocery gift cards to people and families in every town in Washington who need to shop today in order to prepare meals for dinner tonight. We are building a track record of positive experiences with newly arrived people groups who are fleeing war and violence in other parts of the world.

Our lives are stories, built on experience. Join your story with ours – we are so much stronger and more resilient together. We can make this next chapter a groundbreaking one for the people of Washington State.

Best regards,

Thomas

## COMPASSIONATE PARTNERSHIPS

“We owe a lot to the tribal people, and this is a way to return it,” said Lon Inaba about the recent sale of his family farm, Inaba Produce Farms, to the Yakama Nation.

Inaba Produce Farms, a third-generation family farm and longtime partner of Northwest Harvest sold the farmland back to the Yakama Nation, completing the circle of a deep-rooted history.

In 1907, Lon’s grandfather emigrated from Japan to begin a career in agriculture, building the family farm in the Yakima Valley. At the time, immigrants from Asian countries were barred from becoming citizens or owning land, but through a lease agreement with the Yakama Nation Inaba’s grandfather was able to begin farming in Washington. In 1954, the exclusionary laws changed and the Inaba family were able to legally purchase the land from the tribe.

Now, Lon and his family are transitioning the land back to its original owners—the Yakama Nation. Phil Rigdon, Superintendent of the Department of Natural Resources for the Yakama Nation, is thrilled to have the opportunity to grow produce on the reservation and bring back indigenous traditions of preservation and storage. To do that, they’ve enlisted the help of the Inabas to support the next generation towards food sovereignty.

The Inaba family understands that their legacy is rooted in the early kindness of the Yakama Nation tribal leaders. Their story of partnership and compassion sets an example of how we can build a more just food system.

As we raise the capital to build our newest distribution center in Yakima, Washington’s agricultural heartland, we learn from our neighbors in the Yakama Nation to inform a compassionate partnership. Continually focused on being interconnected with our partners, farmers, and shoppers, we aim to shape policies rooted in compassion - to not only help people to survive, but to thrive.

We know a future without hunger in Washington state is possible. Learn more about how the new Yakima distribution center will make this dream a reality by visiting [northwestharvest.org/yakima-capital-campaign](http://northwestharvest.org/yakima-capital-campaign).



# FROM THE HEARTLAND – NORTHWEST HARVEST'S YAKIMA CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

For more than 50 years, Northwest Harvest has provided food to the community free-of-charge, with no questions asked. Over the past two years, the pandemic presented new challenges to the movement to end hunger in Washington. As the need continues to evolve, so must our approach.

Northwest Harvest is preparing to take our joint efforts to build a more just food system to the next level with a new project that will build the future of distribution in Washington state.

Northwest Harvest is thrilled to announce the public launch of our capital campaign to construct a state-of-the-art distribution center in Yakima. Spanning 10.6 acres of Washington's agricultural heartland, the new Yakima campus will reshape the experience of food access throughout Northwest Harvest and the state in several critical ways:

- Located closer to the main source of agricultural production in Washington, Northwest Harvest will be better equipped to purchase from local growers and get fresh produce to those who need it quickly and easily.
- It will improve the efficiency of our food distribution operations, establishing a "just-in-time" facility in Western WA to offer FAN partners easy access to fresh produce and nutritious shelf-stable food.
- This facility more than doubles our warehouse space from 94,500 to 200,000 total square-feet and increases our temperature-controlled space by 10 times the current capacity. This expansion will allow us to distribute more fresh fruits and vegetables to partners statewide.
- It will be home to a no-cost grocery store for the Yakima community, providing a space to shop for access fresh and nutritious food with dignity at no charge.

Building from a \$16 million investment from Northwest Harvest and with a significant contribution from Washington state, we will partner with the giving community to raise the remaining \$12.2 million needed to make this ambitious project come to life.

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## GROWING STRONGER FOOD SYSTEMS:

### From Hunger Response to Improved Access

We are thrilled to announce that the Hunger Response Network—a partnership of more than 300 food programs throughout Washington—is in the process of reshaping into the Food Access Network! The Food Access Network (FAN) welcomes not only a name change, but also a renewed purpose that goes beyond responding to hunger – we aim to prevent it from happening in the first place.

The FAN creates purpose-driven resources, access, and partnerships in order to build a better Washington state food system. Guided by the tenets of accountability, dignity, relationships, and partnership, the FAN provides access to food while connecting partners to resources that strengthen their communities.

The FAN and Northwest Harvest acknowledge that we are not the founders nor the owners of the movement to end hunger in our state. Therefore, the FAN is dedicated to centering the stories of Black, Indigenous, and People of Color who have been steadfast in this work for generations.

## SHARING STORIES

Every day, we have the honor of learning from our community. This donor reminded us that it's never too early to understand the gift of abundance and community care.

*"Bienvenido al mundo mi pequeño hijo. Estamos aquí en la tierra para ayudarnos el uno al otro. Esta donación la hice para enseñarte que es importante compartir y ayudar siempre cuando puedes. Te quiero mucho mi hijo!!!"*

*"Welcome to the world my little son. We are here on earth to help each other. I made this donation to teach you that it is important to share and help whenever you can. I love you so much, my son!!!"*

Please share your stories with us by scanning the QR code.



## EVENTS

WASHINGTON  
WESTERN | CENTRAL | EASTERNMore events and up-to-the-minute details at: [northwestharvest.org](https://northwestharvest.org)

**Taco Fest, April 30:** Northwest Harvest is excited to support the Central Washington Hispanic Chamber of Commerce for Taco Fest at SARG HUBBARD PARK.

For more info: [cwhcc.com/events-yakima-taco-fest/](https://cwhcc.com/events-yakima-taco-fest/)

**GiveBIG, May 3-4:** We cannot do this work without our trusted community partners. This year, we invite our generous donors to GiveBIG to small organizations within your community working towards food justice. It takes our entire network to end hunger in Washington.

Join us and GiveBIG to our community: [wagives.org/giving-events/givebig22](https://wagives.org/giving-events/givebig22).

**Seattle Pride, June 24-26:** Northwest Harvest is a proud to be sponsors for three amazing events over Pride Weekend in Seattle:

- **Take B(!)ack Pride** – organized by Black, Indigenous, and People of color in the Trans and Queer community. This year's celebration will be held on Saturday, June 25th. Check out their Instagram @TakingBlackPride for more information.
- **Seattle Queer Pride Parade, Sunday, June 26** – Staff, family members, and supporters of Northwest Harvest will be walking in Seattle's annual Pride parade. Parade route can be found at [seattlepride.org](https://seattlepride.org).
- **Queer/Pride Festival**, Three day festival held in the heart of Capitol Hill. Please visit [queerpridefestival.com](https://queerpridefestival.com) for a full line up of events.

Please email [jeaniec@northwestharvest.org](mailto:jeaniec@northwestharvest.org) if you would like to be involved in these events.

HUNGER ACTION  
DAY SUCCESSES

February 7th was Hunger Action Day. Every year on this day, Northwest Harvest, the Anti-Hunger & Nutrition Coalition, and other food justice organizations mobilize our networks, organizing members to meet with their elected officials and advocate for more equitable policies, stronger safety nets, and a Washington state that recognizes all people have a right to food.

This year, Northwest Harvest's legislative agenda included two priority bills – House Bill 1878 and 1833. Both bills support efforts to increase and improve access to school meals – a key nutritional resource for families experiencing poverty.

We are thrilled to announce that both bills have passed the State House passed out of the Legislature with with strong bipartisan support – the most bipartisan vote count of all our school meals bills so far!

HB 1878 was signed into law by Governor Inslee on March 4. It will expand the use of the Federal Community Eligibility Provision to another 648 schools, providing healthy meals at no cost to an additional 92,000 students! HB 1833 will create an online portal in multiple languages that enables families to more easily complete important paperwork that supports their access to free or reduced-price school meals while maintaining their other education funding.

HAPPY FIRST BIRTHDAY TO THE  
HARVEST PANTRY PROGRAM!

The Harvest Pantry program turned one this February! In response to the evolving needs of our food system and communities during the pandemic, Northwest Harvest launched the Harvest Pantry program in early 2021 to build relationships with more organizations outside of the food bank system that could distribute emergency food to their clients. What started as a small sprout of a program, providing food pickups to a handful of organizations out of the Kent warehouse, has blossomed into a robust operation partnering with a broad range of organizations - nearly 90 of them - out of three warehouses across the state.

In Spokane, one Harvest Pantry partner uses the food they receive to make deliveries to homebound folks and to fill "Free Little Pantries" in their services neighborhoods. Another partner nonprofit provides needed food during medical appointments to low-income seniors.

As local organizations spread the word, Harvest Pantry continues to adapt and expand its offerings based on valuable feedback from recipients, increasing the variety of foods available for pickup and offering delivery options for organizations who cannot pick up food.

*"Roni LifeWorks provides food monthly to over 200 families, the BIPOC community, and the LGBTQ+ community in need. Roni LifeWorks distributes meat, canned foods, and packaged foods ensuring all communities get healthy and balanced meals. We provide food regardless of citizenship, race, social or economic status, national origin, or religion. We believe that no one in our community should go hungry. No prior registration or documentation is required for Roni LifeWorks to deliver food to your front door. We could not do this work without the Harvest Pantry Program at Northwest Harvest."*

—DR. JOCELYN "DR. J" PERKINS-ENABULELE, FOUNDER

*"We started our food pantry in 2020. We really benefited from shelf stable products like rice, beans, the basics. What was different about Northwest Harvest is the fact that you all provide meat that could be shared with our community. Our community has also enjoyed the variety of food from tasty granola all the way to getting lotion and hamburger patties."*

—QUEER THE LAND, a collaborative project grounded in the self-determination of queer, trans, and two spirit Black/ indigenous/ people of color (QT2BIPOC) and the vision of collectively owning our land and labor



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Interested in learning more about working for Northwest Harvest? Check out our job openings at [northwestharvest.org/careers](https://northwestharvest.org/careers).

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## THANK YOU, BOEING EMPLOYEES!



Northwest Harvest is grateful for our deep-rooted partnership with Boeing, whose employees have engaged in nearly 30,000 hours of service over the past 22 years – the most hours of any corporate partner! Since 2000, over 1,600 employees have volunteered in various roles spanning several Northwest Harvest facilities. Their steadfast dedication to supporting our neighbors in accessing delicious and healthy food in Washington state is exemplary. On behalf of all of us at Northwest Harvest, thank you for your leadership!

## A REFLECTION ON GIVING

What I've enjoyed through my journey with fundraising can't be measured in dollars. Many fundraisers will be quick to tell you the total amount of philanthropic gifts they've secured in their tenures. For me, the relationships built over the years have given me the greatest pleasure.

Since 1967, our work has been made possible by the thousands of small contributions by donors who quietly cared about their neighbors in need. Those of us working in philanthropy are aware that much support comes from our donors who have been with us through thick and thin. Coming from a myriad of backgrounds and cultures, their hearts are all in accord with serving those facing food insecurity.

Whether a gift is made in the moment or as a legacy through wills or IRA accounts, these gifts of \$25, \$50, \$100 have reflected the lion's share of resources that allow us to feed millions of those in need.

For me, these relationships and stories have humbled me; filled me with joy; and validated my life's work in philanthropy. Thanks to each of you for making it possible for us to reach out to those in need of food for sustenance and food for the soul. As you continue on your philanthropic journey, we hope you will always reach out to us with your questions about considerations when making a gift!

Anne Knapp, Senior Planned Giving Officer at Northwest Harvest, entered the world of philanthropy in 1991, working in development at a myriad of organizations—from private colleges to the American Heart Association.

## BUILDING A FUTURE WITHOUT HUNGER

It will take all of us to build a future without hunger in Washington, and the road that leads us there begins in Yakima. Join the movement to put health, equity, and dignity at the center of our work by making your gift to the Yakima capital campaign today! Consider a gift today to support Northwest Harvest at [northwestharvest.org/donate](https://northwestharvest.org/donate), by sending your gift in the enclosed postage-paid envelope, or scanning the code to the right.



SCAN  
HERE