

## TOGETHER, WE CAN

A message from Chief Executive Officer, Thomas Reynolds



The call came in on an afternoon packed full of frenetic activity; team coordination, media inquiries, food distributions, partner meetings. My phone rang. On the other end of the line was Washington's Lieutenant Governor. The next several minutes were almost surreal. Congratulations were offered. Northwest Harvest had been named the organization of the year for Washington State. I was stunned.

For the past year we have worked every day reaching out families and communities hardest hit by the economic fallout of the COVID-19 pandemic. We have provided food and resources to the people most impacted by this crisis. There has been very little time to stop and reflect on what has been accomplished because the need has been so high, and the pace has been so swift.

I cannot describe how impactful it was to me to share with my teammates across Washington from Spokane to Yakima to Kent and Seattle, the news that they were being awarded this recognition. I sent an all-staff email with congratulations. Immediately my inbox was flooded with enthusiastic

responses. I love how each person on our team can see their own contributions to making a difference across the state for people who experience hunger.

The pandemic continues to impact households—families, seniors, immigrants, informally-housed people, college students—and we will continue to rise up and respond to needs. This is our work, and this is our mission. I am grateful that my teammates have been bestowed the honor of statewide recognition—it reflects their creativity, courage, commitment, and endurance to help alleviate the stress and uncertainty that our neighbors across the state experience. This is an award we share with our donors, advocates, volunteers, board members, and partners as well—our work is accomplished together.

Best regards,

***"IT ALWAYS SEEMS IMPOSSIBLE UNTIL IT'S DONE."***

—NELSON MANDELA

When we put the resources, political will, and determination towards addressing a pressing challenge, anything is possible. The pace of effective COVID-19 vaccine development is proof that we can reach great heights with the right support—even end hunger.

Only fully committing to food justice will end hunger in our state. Northwest Harvest is innovating and finding new solutions to make sure everyone has access to healthy food, no matter their income level, background, or where they live. Hunger is a challenge worthy of continuing our determined efforts.

With your support, we were able to accomplish a logistical feat we wouldn't have believed was possible at this time last year. Since the beginning of the pandemic, with escalating rates of food insecurity and restrictions on our normal distribution model, we teamed up with our network of partners, other agencies and the state to distribute 1 million boxes of emergency food to families across Washington.

A world without hunger is possible, and we're on our way. Join Northwest Harvest as we get food where it's needed most, advocate for policies that dismantle inequitable systems, and innovate our programs to cut hunger in half by 2028. We can get there, and we need you. Give today.

*"We had a customer come in for help that lives in Spokane but works in our area as a helper for an elderly man. She can't get to her food bank for help because of her hours, [and] she was so relieved that we would help her here. All of us were so happy that we were able to help her."*

—North County Food Pantry, Spokane County

### FOLLOW US ACROSS THE STATE!

To stay in the know about volunteering and other opportunities in Central and Eastern Washington, "like" our regional Facebook pages—[@NWHarvestYakima](#) and [@NWHarvestSpokane!](#)

## Northwest Harvest Board of Directors 2021

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*"Most of the clients  
leave with a big smile  
on their face. I'm happy  
for them for coming to  
us as well."*

—El Centro de la Raza,  
King County

## KEN HILL FAMILY AND CHARITABLE TRUSTS

The following story reinforces three secrets to success in family philanthropy: frugality, consistency, and generosity. It also demonstrates how the Hill family used trusts to fulfill family goals and strengthen communities.

The Hill Family emigrated from Germany in 1884. A family of four upon arrival, they quickly grew to a family of 12! As attending college wasn't as common at that time as it is today, Otto, the youngest of 10 children, was the only one to graduate from college. After receiving his Ph.D. in Agricultural Chemistry, he returned to and worked for WSC (now WSU) where he met his wife Opal. They married in 1936. After four more years in Pullman, they moved to Seattle where the two boys were born.

While Otto never earned more than \$10,000 a year, (perhaps around \$70,000 today), the lessons on frugality he learned from his immigrant parents allowed the family to have their own home and live comfortably. Aided by his interest in the stock market, slowly but surely, he learned to invest and over the years the nest egg grew.

The elder son, Ken, became a teacher and in 1965 the younger son, Richard, enlisted in the Army. Like so many young men of that era, Richard returned home with emotional and psychological scars from which he never fully recovered. He would need financial help throughout his life.

To ensure the family would be cared for, Otto and his wife established three trusts: a family trust, a living trust, and a special needs trust. The first two were to provide for Otto's wife when he passed, and the third ensured that Richard's difficult life was made easier.

After Richard's death in 2019, the proceeds of the special needs trust—grown to \$750,000 over the years—went to charities benefitting Otto and Opal's



*Christmas 1958 photo shows Hill Family looking at Christmas cards, six months before Ken graduated. "Dad was much shorter than his boys," Ken notes.*

alma maters as well as several social service groups, including Northwest Harvest. Otto, at one time, was named an Alumnus of the Year at WSU.

By setting up a special needs trust, Otto and Opal were able to ensure that Richard's needs were met. If governmental assistance such as VA support was also involved, a special needs trust can be administered to ensure that the governmental assistance continues. Charitable trusts can be very flexible in their construction to meet specific needs as well as cover multiple beneficiaries. When funded, they bypass an up-front capital gain tax if funded with long term appreciated assets such as stocks.

Setting up charitable trusts to ensure your family needs are met, then ultimately leveraging the nest egg to support charitable work after the trust parameters have been met, helps families like Otto's see significant tax saving, while meeting personal and philanthropic goals. If, as you begin to think about estate planning, you want to learn more about different types of charitable trusts, please contact Anne S. Knapp, CFP™, Senior Planned Giving Officer at 206.390.6094 or [annek@northwestharvest.org](mailto:annek@northwestharvest.org).

## 2021 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES: PROTECT AND EXPAND OUR SAFETY NET

The costs of the state's response to the public health and economic crises caused by this pandemic resulted in a severe revenue shortfall. It's an incredibly tough fiscal environment, making it more important than ever that we ensure as we build back, we protect essential services in food, housing and health care, and develop progressive revenue that makes Washington more equitable.

We are urging legislators to expand the purchasing power of SNAP, increase resources for food banks, and increase access to fruit and vegetables for low-income families.

We are also supporting other measures to address basic needs, including: support for increased availability of safe, stable housing and for homelessness prevention; expanded access to affordable health care; and programs that promote economic stability through employment training.

Our state can help working families by making food and other essentials more affordable and accessible.

Among the specific legislation we support are House bills aimed at providing Recovery Rebates to working families with children by funding our state's Working Families Tax Credit, eliminating school lunch co-pays for students of low-income families, and giving transitional food assistance to families with kids on SNAP to help them afford food and other essentials.

We also support a Senate bill to increase access to cash assistance, workforce training, and support services for families with children living in deepest poverty.

In January, Northwest Harvest provided testimony on another Senate bill to help preserve school transportation funding by allowing delivery of meals and other essentials for remote learners to count as reimbursable costs. School bus delivery of meals is critical to keep busy, working families from missing out on nutritious meals for kids, and the more meals served means more federal dollars for our state.

See Northwest Harvest's 2021 Legislative Agenda and learn about specific bills our coalitions are tracking at: [northwestharvest.org/get-involved/advocacy/our-legislative-priorities](https://northwestharvest.org/get-involved/advocacy/our-legislative-priorities).

Follow progress and join us in advocacy action by signing up for alerts at: [northwestharvest.org/legislative-updates](https://northwestharvest.org/legislative-updates).



HUNGER  
ACTION DAY

# THANK YOU

### HUNGER ACTION HIGHLIGHTS

On Friday, February 12 we joined in the Anti-Hunger & Nutrition Coalition's Hunger Action Day, a lobby day that highlights issues facing hungry families across Washington.

Thank you to the 160 advocates from 36 legislative districts who met with their lawmakers or their staff virtually.

In preparation, the Anti-Hunger & Nutrition Coalition and Northwest Harvest provided advocates with training on the priority issues, key talking points, and how to make the most of their online meetings with lawmakers.

To learn more, see AHNC's *Hunger Policy Playbook for Washington, 2021-23*, available at: [northwestharvest.org/resources](https://northwestharvest.org/resources).

## ORGANIZATION OF THE YEAR!

On February 16 Northwest Harvest was honored to be awarded 2021 Organization of the Year by Washington State. The Washington State Leadership Awards is a program of the Office of the Lt. Governor and has been recognizing outstanding individuals and organizations since 1975.

**Take a bow, this is your award!** Your support makes our work possible. Together, we can expand access to good food for all Washingtonians, address the root causes of poverty and hunger, and help bring about a more just and equitable society.

For more information about this prestigious award, please visit: [washingtonleaders.org](https://washingtonleaders.org).



Kristina Brown (far right) of the Washington Leadership Board presented the award at SODO Community Market to a few assembled staff including Justin Viera, Patricia Vogel, Mari Kim, James Gibbs, Roy McCree, Ames Hwang, and Laura Hamilton.



## VOLUNTEERING IN A PANDEMIC

At the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, restrictions to protect against the virus meant we had to rethink how to safely provide opportunities for our amazing community of volunteers.

"I just volunteer where I think it's needed," said Althea Anderson. Althea has become one of our most reliable event volunteers and has signed up to volunteer at a few Seattle-area food banks when restrictions lift. "I just want to help, and I enjoy it," says Althea.

Some felt compelled to begin their volunteer journey with Northwest Harvest at the rise of the pandemic. Lisa Loughney just moved back to the Seattle area in January of 2020. With many years of volunteer experience in food insecurity, she responded to a call for volunteers at Northwest Harvest's SODO Community Market.

"The care of the volunteers and staff is amazing. They know certain clients and exactly what they'll need," said Lisa. Reflecting on 2020, Lisa noted, "There's a realization that we're all in this 'sea' together."

Mary Dombrowski had an all too familiar experience of 2020—she lost two jobs due to the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. Mary recently

joined Northwest Harvest as Spokane Volunteer Coordinator. "It feels good to be at an organization that is doing necessary work," says Mary, who studied food justice in college. "I'm looking forward to bringing on new volunteers and getting their perspectives on the root causes of hunger." With the volunteer program in Spokane currently on hold, Mary is exploring new ways of engaging the Spokane community. "I really love how food connects all of us—to the planet, to our society and culture, economics, everything. This is exactly where I want to be—a place that is doing the practical work of getting people food but also focusing on advocacy, so that someday there won't be a need for this type of work."

For the last 11 months, Josette Gonzales, Community Engagement Senior Specialist in our Yakima branch, led a committee focused on growing the statewide volunteer program. An unexpected benefit to the shutdown, Josette was afforded the time to analyze the mission of the volunteer program. "We've really had a chance to take a look at what we're doing and what we want to do," Josette said. "We are going to be offering a greater variety of opportunities for our volunteers that align with Northwest Harvest work to build a movement to bring about food justice."



Lisa Loughney responded to a call for volunteers at Northwest Harvest's SODO Community Market after moving back to the Seattle area in 2020.

Despite restrictions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, Northwest Harvest volunteers logged 60,000 hours of service in 2020. We appreciate all of you who give your time and energy to ensure your neighbors do not go hungry, and we look forward to connecting you with new and exciting opportunities in the months ahead.

*"We are continuing to get new food pantry users with many who are unaware of the amount of food we are able to provide their family. At least once a week, we get a new household who is shocked and extremely happy with their food items!"*

—Community Action Center,  
Whitman County

## SHARING POWER, BUILDING COMMUNITY

The problem of food insecurity is a complex one that requires both a long-term structural response and an emergent one. Food pantries are at the center of that emergent response, tasked with meeting the needs of those who are food insecure in their own communities. As the emergency food system evolved, many food pantries added nutrition education elements to their basic mission—programs such as cooking classes, in-line food demonstration carts, recipes, and posters.

*Sharing Power, Building Community: Strategies for Improving Nutrition Education at Food Pantries*, a research report created as a joint project

of Northwest Harvest and Seattle University's Department of Anthropology and Sociology, aims to begin a conversation about what works and what doesn't and how food programs and nutrition education programs can best fit the needs of their customers.

Authors Jasmine Waland and Mark Cohan of Seattle University, with Laura Titzer of Northwest Harvest, sought to address research questions such as: how exposure to and participation in nutrition education can be increased, where nutrition education is most effective, and what the differences are in programming between effective and ineffective nutrition education classes.

Watch for the full report to be published on our website.

# EVENTS

WASHINGTON  
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More events and  
up-to-the-minute details at:  
[northwestharvest.org](http://northwestharvest.org)

## SCOUTING FOR FOOD ONGOING

Each year, Chief Seattle Council conducts their annual Scouting for Food campaign—a large scale food drive where scouts across Western Washington go door-to-door to collect food donations to take to their local food banks.



This year, we are excited to announce that Chief Seattle Council has partnered with Northwest Harvest to launch a virtual food drive. Since many food banks are unable to accept physical food donations due to the pandemic, scouts will be going door to door to ask people to virtually donate food instead.

Donors will be able to choose items from a virtual grocery list (which includes the cost of each item) that they would normally donate in person and donate the corresponding monetary amount.

To participate in this virtual food drive, visit:  
[charity.gofundme.com/o/en/campaign/chiefseattlecouncilvirtuallscoutingforfood](https://charity.gofundme.com/o/en/campaign/chiefseattlecouncilvirtuallscoutingforfood).

## THANK YOU, SAFEWAY!

Thanks to Safeway and Albertson stores and customers who participated in a phenomenal effort to raise funds in lieu of traditional food donation drives due to COVID restrictions. Funds raised are being distributed in the form of \$50 gift cards through our network of food bank and meal program partners statewide. These gift cards allow food bank shoppers to buy what they need directly from Safeway stores—including prepared food for our unhoused neighbors and hygiene or other non-food items. This effort puts food choices where they should be—in the hands of the families most affected by food insecurity.

*"There has been more than one person who was teary eyed when we gave them \$50 gift cards to Safeway. 'It helps so much,' was the simple refrain we heard."*

—Helpline House, Kitsap County

*"After I started giving the Safeway gift cards, one of our older clients got so happy, because she has been waiting to be able to buy milk...now with the card she can go shopping."*

—Toppenish Community Chest, Yakima County

## HOME TEAM HARVEST BUSTS THE RECORD BOOKS WITH UNPRECEDENTED PARTICIPATION

Thanks from all of us at Northwest Harvest to KING 5, and Home Team Harvest sponsors including Safeway, Albertsons, Swedish, AT&T, and Warm 106.9, and to the thousands of you who supported Home Team Harvest during this year of overwhelming need. We are humbled and in awe to announce that together we raised 23.5 million meals.

To put this achievement in perspective, our goal last year was to raise 7 million meals—this during a year when so many have lost jobs, have lost loved ones, and are continuing to struggle to make ends meet, is even more astounding.

While hunger can be found in every community in Washington, people of color, women, veterans, immigrants, LGBTQ+ and rural communities experience hunger at disproportionately higher rates than other Washingtonians. These communities are our priority. We are piloting innovative ways to address

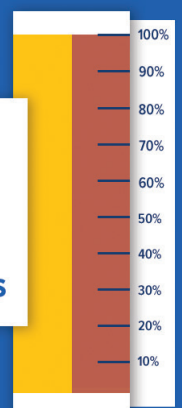
the impacts of economic insecurity and to provide choice and options for people beyond the food we make available.

Through our partnership with Safeway, we are distributing \$50 Safeway gift cards through our partner programs. These gift cards allow food bank shoppers to buy what they need directly from Safeway stores—including prepared food for our unhoused neighbors and hygiene, or other non-food items. This effort puts food choices where they should be—in the hands of the families most affected by food insecurity. We anticipate continuing distribution of gift cards through the winter.

The COVID pandemic is continuing to wreak havoc on our communities here in Washington. So is hunger. The difference is there is no vaccine on the way for hunger. The massive job loss has driven food insecurity to double, from 800,000 people before the pandemic outbreak to

**KING 5 HOME TEAM HARVEST** **20 YEARS.** **23.5 MILLION MEALS.**

**GOAL |**  
20 MILLION MEALS  
**ACHIEVED |**  
23.5 MILLION MEALS



close to 2.5 million Washingtonians who are struggling to cover basic household expenses today. Food banks and meal programs have seen a 300% increase in demand. But thanks to Home Team Harvest, our community stood up and refused to let their neighbors go hungry.



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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](https://northwestharvest.org/careers).*

## TINTE CELLARS: THREE GENERATIONS OF ADVOCACY

Tinte Cellars began partnering with Northwest Harvest in 2019. But for owner, Teresa Gamble, whose mother was First Lady of Washington State in 1980, the advocacy for hunger justice began long before then.

“As a child, I recall my mom was an active volunteer whose passion was for overcoming food insecurity. She sparked that passion in me, and I spent countless hours volunteering at food banks throughout my schooling in Olympia and then Seattle.” Teresa and her husband Tim have continued that tradition by taking their sons Patrick and Ryan to

volunteer at the former Cherry Street distribution site for Northwest Harvest. Now as high school students, the boys organize a back-to-school online and in-person food drive with some of their closest friends. Teresa sees her sons as carrying on her mother’s passion for supporting families experiencing food insecurity. Their family commitment to serve vulnerable households carries over into their business practices. Tinte Cellars has designed a giving program that “donates a portion of all our wine sales to support the important work of Northwest Harvest across our state.”

Local businesses like Tinte Cellars who are committed to addressing the crisis of food insecurity in our state help fuel our mission to end hunger in Washington.

*“A husband and wife came to the food bank with a monetary donation to thank us for serving their daughter and granddaughter while she was out of work. They have become regular volunteers in an effort to continue to serve those in need.”*

—Renewal Food Bank, King County

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## RECURRING GIVING:

Growing food justice is a commitment. Like a growing garden, it takes consistent care and effort, especially at a time when a quarter of our neighbors are struggling to make ends meet.

Monthly gifts grow our efforts to put food on the tables of every Washingtonian—no matter where they live, their race, income level, or country of origin. This is what food justice looks like:

- A cash-equivalent gift card program that centers dignity and puts food choices right where they belong: in the hands of families in need.
- Peer Support Groups that lift up the stories and expertise of those with lived experience of hunger.
- A mobile food pantry that brings resources to where people need them most.

Your monthly gift seeds the future of food justice in Washington. Commit to a recurring gift today!