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AMAZON HELPS CLOSE DONATION GAP FOR NORTHWEST HARVEST WITH SUPPORT FOR SODO COMMUNITY MARKET – SEATTLE'S NEWEST FOOD BANK

$600,000 cash gift increases access to nutritious groceries for more than 5,000 people each week in new community-oriented space

New market opens to the public today

(Seattle, WA – June 24, 2019) Northwest Harvest, Washington state's leading hunger relief agency, is excited to announce a donation from Amazon – the largest single gift for Northwest Harvest's SODO Community Market, Seattle's newest resource for those experiencing food insecurity. The $600,000 gift from Amazon helps close the gap for the SODO Community Market capital campaign, which developed a new space designed to bring people together and offer a destigmatizing, grocery store-like experience when shopping for everything from fresh produce and culturally relevant staples, to diapers and personal hygiene products. The funds will also contribute to ongoing operational costs to keep shelves stocked. SODO Community Market has capacity to serve more than 5,000 people each week living with food insecurity in the Seattle region.

"Northwest Harvest brings a client-centric approach to solving hunger in Washington state by offering nutritious choices to families facing hunger in ways that promote a healthy body and mind," said Bettina Stix, Senior Manager, Community at Amazon. "Amazon is proud to team with Northwest Harvest on this latest endeavor assisting our neighbors in immediate need with an atmosphere that focuses on dignity and building trust."

"We are excited for our growing relationship with Amazon," said Thomas Reynolds, Northwest Harvest CEO. "Their campaign support to help build SODO Community Market and ensure inventory of needed items allows Northwest Harvest to make this new home for our community a reality and better nourish and support our most vulnerable families making tough choices on necessities every day."

One in nine Washington residents experience food insecurity and hunger on a regular — if not daily — basis; additionally, one in six children in Washington lives in homes that often struggle to make nutritional food available. Hunger also persists at disproportionately higher rates for people of color and households with children that are headed by single women or single men.

SODO Community Market replaces the recently closed Cherry Street Food Bank in Seattle's First Hill neighborhood. The new location has capacity to serve even more of those needing anything from a bag of fresh produce, peanut butter, soups, and grains for their families, to those just popping in for a freshly made sandwich.

With the generous support of Amazon and other major contributors (including the Joshua Green Foundation, the Nesholm Family Foundation, PACCAR Inc, and the Schultz Family Foundation), SODO Community Market opens its doors to the public at 1:30 p.m. today. *Media are invited to attend a private event beginning at 11:00 am.*

Northwest Harvest's SODO Community Market is located in Seattle's SODO neighborhood at 1915 4th Ave S, near the corner of 4th Ave S & S Holgate St. For more information, hours of operation, and other services available at SODO Community Market, please visit northwestharvest.org/sodo-community-market.

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About Northwest Harvest
Northwest Harvest is Washington's leading hunger relief agency – supporting a statewide network of 375 food banks, meal programs, and high-need schools. Focused on improving equity in our food system, Northwest Harvest believes everyone in Washington should have consistent access to nutritious food that nourishes the body, mind, and spirit. In addition to making sure those who suffer from hunger have increased access to healthy food, Northwest Harvest aims to shift public opinion, as well as impact institutional policies and societal practices that perpetuate hunger, poverty, and disparities in our state.