



Funds Distribution Report

Recipient Organization:
Northwest Harvest / EMM

Mailing Address:
P.O. Box 12272
Seattle, WA 98102

Contact:
(800) 722-6924
<https://www.northwestharvest.org>

Organization's General Goals:

The mission of Northwest Harvest is leading the fight for hungry people statewide to have access to nutritious food while respecting their dignity and promoting good health. Our vision is ending hunger in Washington.

Date of Award:	Level:
2019 Q1	\$2,501 to \$5,000

For more information, please read the attached report from Northwest Harvest / EMM.

8802 27th Ave NE
Tulalip, WA 98271
TulalipCares.org

DONOR IMPACT REPORT

FISCAL YEAR 2019



Northwest Harvest is leading the fight for hungry people statewide to have access to nutritious food while respecting their dignity and promoting good health. Our vision is ending hunger in Washington. Our goal: to cut hunger in half in ten years, by 2028.

NUTRITIOUS FOOD DISTRIBUTION –

During our fiscal year 2019 we once again sent out 30 million pounds of nutritious food and met our goal of providing more than 2 million meals, every month, to our statewide network. Some of our accomplishments included:

Distribution Highlights	
Total food banks, hot meal programs, and high-need schools in the Northwest Harvest Hunger Response Network	380, meeting local needs in more than 200 Washington communities
Meals provided to children through our Three Squares food backpack program and our Kids Summer Food Club	261,633
People served at SODO Community Market in July, our first month	13,402
Eastern WA: in October we moved to a much more functional warehouse in Spokane, enabling us to provide over 1.7 million meals to 92,000 households in 7 largely rural counties.	Central WA: equipment upgrades at our Yakima warehouse are increasing food output by 40%, reaching 58 food banks and 11 high-need schools.

GENEROUS COMMUNITY SUPPORT

We raised more cash contributions during fiscal 2019 than in any previous year of our agency's history, thanks to an extraordinary bequest from the Floyd Jones Estate and a successful capital campaign funding SODO Community Market.

Dollars, Pounds & Volunteer Hours	
Total pounds of food donated	24,547,951
Total cash contributions from individuals, corporations and foundations	\$18,870,667 (exceeding budget goal)
Total number of hours donated by volunteers	72,973 (equivalent to 35 full-time employees)

NEW PROGRAMS & PARTNERSHIPS

- Launched our new Northwest Harvest Access Fund and gave three grants to partner programs enabling them to increase protein distribution, improve data management, and launch summer child nutrition services.
- Held our first Regional Policy Summit, uniting neighbors having lived experience of hunger with local service providers and lawmakers to discuss programmatic and policy solutions that improve access to nutritious food.
- Jump-started our grant-funded Growing Connections program, which contracts with local farmers for more fresh local produce delivered to food banks and meal programs during the harvest season.
- Participated in an American Heart Association Childhood Obesity Prevention Coalition, and expanded the King County Public Health Sodium Reduction work, aiming to make the healthy choice the easy choice at food banks.

ADVANCING EQUITY AND FOOD JUSTICE

As a food justice organization our path forward toward cutting hunger in half in Washington requires intentional learning about the barriers to food access posed to many of our clients by institutional racism. Furthering the commitment made in early 2018, we completed our year-long planned equity work and finalized our Equity & Inclusion Charter. We developed a set of competencies and an Equity Filter to guide our work going forward, focused on achieving equitable outcomes and advancing the cause of the people we serve. We began to have more conversations with persons having lived experience of hunger, and other communities that are significant for us. Our Root Out Hunger dinner series now has ten chefs committed to breaking bread with a diverse community, and discussing how to reach a more inclusive and just society. Our public policy work was exceptionally successful, providing more fresh produce to food stamp recipients, increasing basic needs support for community college students, helping our state Regional Markets team make fresh food connections with schools and childcare centers, helping schools get lunches to more students, and several homelessness supports.

PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT: SODO COMMUNITY MARKET

With the closure of Cherry Street Food Bank, SODO Community Market is our direct distribution point and the public face of Northwest Harvest. By opening a no-cost grocery shopping market rather than another traditional food bank, Northwest Harvest is furthering our mission to treat everyone with dignity, and moving towards our goal of equitable access to nutritious food for all.



The Market reshapes our engagement with those who matter most – people with lived experience of hunger. Our guests shop for their families like they would in any grocery store, selecting what they want instead of queuing up to accept pre-set choices. We’re seeing many Cherry Street customers and also many new neighbors who work or live near SODO. The neighborhood has little access to fresh or whole foods, so we fill a crucial gap.

In addition to our storefront Market and our back-of-house volunteer work area for packaging and stocking the Market shelves, our new facility offers a large Community Room that we offer to local nonprofits at no charge. In our smaller Resource Room we host service providers like WIC (infant nutrition) or REACH (United Way’s homeless outreach program). Already, Resource Room providers have helped one of our shoppers access permanent housing.



One of our goals when relocating from Cherry Street was to find a site where we could offer more than just food. Our first two months of service confirms that the Market is what we envisioned: a vibrant, safe, welcoming space where everyone can access nutritious food and other services with dignity.

CHALLENGES

The greatest challenge that Northwest Harvest faces in our efforts to cut hunger in half is the many barriers that exist between our clients and equitable access to food:

- Skyrocketing rents, leading to increased commuting and childcare costs in outlying areas; an estimated 156,000 households are cost-burdened by housing in King County alone.
- Homelessness numbers in King County now the highest in U.S., exceeding those of much more populous New York and Los Angeles.
- A shortage of middle-income job opportunities offering sustainable wages.
- Rising health care costs and high-deductible insurance plans.
- Inequities in access not only to healthy foods but also to good public schools, adequate transportation and safe neighborhoods, especially in rural communities and populations of color.
- Public entitlements/safety net programs reduced in benefits or restricted in access.

One in 10 Washingtonians is food-insecure, but food insecurity rates are half again as high for households with children, rural areas and communities of color.