

Media Contact:

Christina Starr, Marketing & Communications Manager
christina.starr@faresstart.org / (206) 267-6212



FARESTART
Great Food. Better Lives.

FareStart Growing, Announces Promotions of Key Executive Staff

Seattle (Jan. 23, 2012) — FareStart, the local social enterprise organization dedicated to transforming the lives of homeless men, women and youth, has today announced the promotions of several executive team members. Most notably, Megan Karch was promoted from Executive Director to Chief Executive Officer.

Karch, a 12 year veteran of FareStart, has significantly expanded FareStart's operations during her tenure, paving the way for the organization to have a broader impact on homelessness in King County—including increasing the number of individuals served by FareStart by 300 percent; growing business revenues by 300 percent; purchasing and renovating a new \$12.8 million facility; and launching Catalyst Kitchens, the organization's national expansion effort.

Using food as a tool to transform lives, FareStart provides critical job training, support services and distribution of meals to build long term solutions to the interconnected problems of homelessness, poverty and hunger. In 2011 alone, FareStart prepared and served 590,000 meals to adults and children in need, while 163 men, women and youth graduated from the training program. Eighty-two percent of the adult graduates achieved employment within 90 days and 90 percent of youth achieved employment or an education certificate.

The promotions come on the heels of significant growth for the organization, which has doubled its capacity since moving to its current location at 700 Virginia Street in 2007. Since its inception in 1992, FareStart has provided opportunities for nearly 5,000 people to transform their lives, while also serving over 4.5 million meals to disadvantaged men, women, and children. FareStart was recognized for its efforts in 2011 by the James Beard Foundation, which honored FareStart with its "Humanitarian of the Year" award.

"This is an incredible time of growth for us," says Amy Michael, FareStart's Chief Finance Officer, who also directs the organization's human resources. "We're scaling staff and increasing our capacity to meet a growing need in the community," continues Michael. "We hope that there will

be a day when we're no longer needed, however until that day comes we'll continue to step up and help those in need."

Other promotions include:

David Carleton: V.P., National

David Carleton has been promoted from Director of National Programs to Vice President, National and will continue to oversee Catalyst Kitchens, FareStart's national effort. Over his eight year tenure at FareStart, Carleton served in multiple capacities—most notably leading the charge to replicate models like FareStart nationally. Carleton has worked with over 125 like-minded organizations, helped to guide the launch of 30 programs, and successfully built a national network of like-minded organizations throughout the country.

Matt Gurney: V.P., Social Enterprise

Matt Gurney was promoted from Director of Business Operations, a position he has held for 10 years, to Vice President, Social Enterprise. Gurney will continue to lead all of FareStart's businesses, including FareStart's retail, contract and wholesale businesses. FareStart's social enterprises generate over \$3.5 million in gross sales annually, representing 50 percent of the organization's annual operating budget.

Dan Johnson: V.P., Development & Marketing

Dan Johnson was promoted from Development Director, a position he held for the last five years, to Vice President, Development & Marketing. Johnson joined FareStart in 2005 as the Capital Campaign Manager for the organization as it sought funds to move to its current location. He will continue to oversee all marketing, communications and fundraising activities for the organization, including grants and major gifts.

For more information about FareStart, visit www.farestart.org.

About FARESTART

FareStart provides a community that transforms lives by empowering homeless and disadvantaged men, women, and families to achieve self-sufficiency through life skills, job training and employment in the food service industry. Over the past 19 years, FareStart has provided opportunities for nearly 5,000 people to transform their lives, while also serving over 4.5 million meals to disadvantaged men, women, and children. Every day, men and women transform their lives in the 16-week adult program, which includes culinary training, life-skills classes, counseling, and assistance with housing, food, clothing and other support services to assist FareStart students as they change their lives. FareStart's Graduate Support Services program provides ongoing guidance to adult graduates, providing a full year (and sometimes longer) of support to help individuals move forward to self-sufficiency. FareStart, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, generates about one third of its annual operating revenue through business operations, such as Guest Chef Night at the FareStart Restaurant. For more information, visit www.farestart.org.

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