



FARESTART

Great Food. Better Lives.

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FareStart Upgrades to a New Home at Seventh and Virginia

Seattle, WA - Thanks to tremendous community support, FareStart (www.farestart.org) has moved to a newly renovated building at 7th and Virginia with the capacity to double the number of homeless individuals served over the next five years. The **FareStart Restaurant** is reopening on February 5th for lunch on weekdays and Guest Chef Night every Thursday.

FareStart, a Seattle-based nonprofit organization, provides a community that empowers homeless and disadvantaged men, women and families to transform their lives, achieving self-sufficiency through life skills, job training and employment in the food service industry. Now FareStart is equipped to make an even bigger impact for the area's homeless individuals with a much needed larger building, complete with expanded training, kitchen and dining facilities.

- Over the next five years, FareStart will be able to double the number of students it can train annually. Currently FareStart serves approximately 255 students each year.
- Over the next 20 years, 10,000 individuals will receive services to meet their basic needs and 5,000 will graduate and secure living-wage jobs.

- Revenue generated from FareStart’s business operations, including the FareStart Restaurant, FareStart Catering and FareStart Contract Meals, will support a majority of FareStart’s program growth.

Dining in the beautiful new FareStart Restaurant is a great way to support FareStart’s training program. The restaurant features a community table hewn from large beams rescued during renovation. The new community table is a tangible symbol of FareStart’s mission – representing second chances, and the support of community. As FareStart Executive Director, Megan Karch, explains, “The restaurant is where the community connects with the issue of homelessness, and where those without a home can connect with the community.”

A three-year capital campaign, the most ambitious fundraising effort in FareStart’s history, raised \$8 million for the new building purchase and renovation. More than 1,000 donors contributed to the capital campaign, including a lead foundation grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and a lead corporate gift from Charlie’s Produce.

Tours of the new facility, photo opportunities and interviews are available. Please contact Karla Smith-Jones, Marketing Communications Manager, at (206) 267-6212 or karla@farestart.org.

About FareStart

- FareStart’s **Adult Program** is a 16-week program of hands-on food service training and classroom instruction preparing homeless and disadvantaged adults for jobs in the food service industry. Each student receives assistance with housing and transportation, as well as goal setting, crisis management, life skills and job placement. Within 90 days of graduation, more than 80% of students secure employment.
- The **Youth Barista Program** is a collaboration between FareStart and YouthCare. The eight-week program teaches barista skills, employability and life skills to at-risk and homeless youth, ages 16 to 21. The FareStart Café provides on-the-job experience.

- FareStart operates four businesses that provide approximately 40 percent of the total operating budget: **FareStart Restaurant** with weekday lunch and Thursday Guest Chef Night; **FareStart Catering**; **FareStart Cafe**; and **FareStart Contract Meals**, which delivers meals to low income childcare programs and homeless shelters.

More information can be found at: www.farestart.org. FareStart is a nonprofit, 501-(c)3 organization.

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