Last year, FareStart saw growth across all our job training programs as we continued to rebuild and evolve in the wake of the pandemic. Nearly 40% more adults and youth enrolled in our programs over the previous year. We also welcomed back students to our kitchens, so participants could learn on-the-job skills while producing meals for our community. In addition to wraparound support including housing, food, mental health counseling and other social services, all students are getting paid for their work in our social enterprise businesses while training.

Delivering prepared meals to mostly food-insecure communities remained a key part of our work, but we also expanded food access through our mobile community markets. Last year, we held nearly 150 market events distributing over 172,000 pounds of food to over 4,700 families in South King County. We’re learning and building new relationships along the way to help inform future job training opportunities.

Our national work continued to take shape last year as FareStart’s consulting team supported nonprofit organizations across the country to help develop and grow their own job training social enterprise programs in their respective communities. Our approach focuses on the symptoms as well as the root causes of poverty and food insecurity across the United States.

Like many organizations, last year we were challenged by the ebb and flow of the pandemic, staffing shortages, supply chain problems and inflation. We worked to creatively mitigate these issues to ensure we could continue to deliver on FareStart’s mission.

“I am getting back into the workforce and I just started being a person again so I am so grateful to you guys for everything you do.”

- Food Pathways Program Student
2022 IMPACT

250 adults and youth enrolled in job training programs.

174 individuals graduated from job training programs.

93 job placements or promotions facilitated for students and graduates.

1.5 million meals provided to people experiencing hunger and food insecurity.

241,000 pounds of food donated, gleaned, recovered, redistributed and upcycled into meals, reducing food waste.

40 Nonprofit organizations across the United States supported through consulting.

“It’s just really helpful to get perspective on things that could be better in our organization, because sometimes you just keep doing things because that’s the way you’ve always done them. I think it’s giving you a chance to ask, ‘Why do you do this? And is this the best way to do this?’”

- FareStart Consulting “Train the Trainer” Workshop Participant

“All these people have a story to tell and that can change everyone’s life, perspective and thought process. When we walk out of this program, we walk out as different people than we were before.”

- Barista & Customer Service Program Graduate

Join Us in Our Work

Thank you for your past support of FareStart’s mission. As we forge ahead in 2023, evolving and growing our job training programs, reimagining our social enterprise businesses and continuing to address food insecurity, we are relying on partners, students, donors, volunteers, staff and other supporters to help us make the transition that positions us for growth and increased impact in a new, post-pandemic employment landscape.

Learn more by contacting us today at info@farestart.org or (206) 443-1233. Donate online or by check (mail to FareStart Development, PO BOX 84395, Seattle WA, 98124-5695).