



JANUARY - MARCH 2023 IMPACT REPORT



The first quarter of 2023 was an exciting and productive time at FareStart.

Youth and young adult students in our Barista & Customer Service Program were welcomed back to our café in South Lake Union for in-person training. The café is humming with more customer traffic and up to eight students training per day (three students per shift) as they learn valuable customer service, retail and barista skills.

We held our first in-person graduation since the pandemic for students in our Food Pathways Program who complete up to six months of in-person training preparing meals for our community. These students were the first group to train in our kitchens since COVID-19 forced us to suspend in-person training back in 2020.

We are on track to meet our goal for student enrollment and graduation rates for the year and are trending up compared to a year ago, with new Online Learning and Food Pathways cohorts starting every month. Our job placement numbers are up by over 60% versus this time last year.

Our new community market truck has enabled us to increase deliveries of fresh food and staples to communities by over 260% so far this year. We held 62 Mobile Community Market events this first quarter, distributing over 30,000 pounds of food to over 2,000 households (non-unique), increasing food security at five different locations in South King County on a weekly basis.

FareStart and our housing partners DESC and Plymouth Housing received encouraging results on our permanent supportive housing meals program from a study conducted by Kaiser Permanente's Center for Community Health and Evaluation. The study indicated that FareStart's prepared meals program improves short-term outcomes for both residents and housing partners, and suggests the potential for longer-term, lasting outcomes that benefit the broader community. You can read more on our blog.



“I have a very colorful background, and I didn’t know where I was going to be when I was incarcerated. And when I got out, I didn’t know where I was going to go, and then I found FareStart. Everyone here and the program has changed my life. I love all of you and the mission.”

- FareStart Food Pathways Program Graduate

2023 TO DATE

70

adults and youth enrolled in job training programs.

44

individuals graduated from job training programs.

21

job placements or promotions facilitated for students and graduates.

62

mobile community market events.

311,391

meals provided to people experiencing hunger and food insecurity.

58,643

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

12

nonprofit organizations across the United States supported through consulting.

“We teach our youth how to sit down and interview and get a job, but also how to adapt and show that you’re an employee who has a growth mindset, who can actually retain a job in the long term. Not every job is your friend, you will have to do things that you don’t like or you’ll have to push through sometimes, but take all those things as experiences so that you can build yourself as a person.”

– Sazurice Williams, FareStart Café Manager



Join Us in Our Work

As we forge ahead in 2023, evolving and growing our job training programs, reimagining our social enterprise businesses and promoting food security, we are relying on partners, students, donors, volunteers, staff and other supporters to help us make the transition that will position us for growth and increased mission impact in a new, post-pandemic employment landscape.

Learn more by contacting us today at info@farestart.org or (206) 443-1233.