



FARESTART PROVIDES 5 MILLIONTH MEAL SINCE THE START OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Meals have been provided to our King County neighbors experiencing food insecurity

SEATTLE (September 12, 2022) – Since March 2020, the Seattle-based nonprofit [FareStart](#) has provided more than 5,000,000 meals to Seattle area organizations that serve youth, adults and families, many of whom are experiencing food insecurity. The meals have been distributed to over 80 nonprofit organizations and 365 sites including the Downtown Emergency Services Center, YMCA, the Skyway Resource Center, the Chief Seattle Club, the Food Innovation Network, Plymouth Housing, as well as King County COVID-19 isolation and recovery sites and other organizations,

“FareStart was founded upon the idea of nourishing communities and our kitchens have served millions of meals throughout King County for three decades,” said Angela Dunleavy, chief executive officer of FareStart. “When the COVID-19 pandemic began, we doubled down on our efforts to ensure individuals and families across the region did not go hungry. We are truly thankful that these collaborations allowed us to provide more meals in support of our neighbors who were most impacted by the pandemic. As the country learns to live with COVID-19, we remain committed to serving those who lack access to nutritious food.”

In addition to organizational collaborations, the support from the Seattle community through financial donations and volunteers have contributed to FareStart’s ability to provide these meals and disrupt poverty,

“FareStart has been on the frontlines of the response to COVID-19 since the beginning of the pandemic,” said Shoko Toyama, chief development officer at Plymouth Housing. “We are grateful to receive these meals as they have been a lifeline to our residents during this public health crisis. 61% of Plymouth residents are 55 or older and

95% live with at least one disability and/or significant health concern. Many of them are at high risk of experiencing complications if they become infected with COVID-19. The meals delivered by FareStart not only nourish our residents, they have also reduced feelings of isolation and improved the relationships between residents and our staff.”

Financial donations also support FareStart’s job training and employment programs, which have been operating virtually throughout the pandemic. The job training program recently welcomed its first group of students back for in-person learning; a group of half a dozen students will be training in kitchens and production facilities, gaining on-the-job skills that support FareStart’s hunger relief and food security work.

FareStart will continue to produce meals for undernourished and food-insecure communities across the greater Seattle area. Financial donations to FareStart are welcomed and encouraged, and volunteer opportunities are also available. To donate or volunteer, please visit www.farestart.org.

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About FareStart

FareStart is a James Beard Award-winning nonprofit organization that transforms lives, disrupts poverty and nourishes communities through food, life skills and job training. FareStart provides hands-on training to students through its social enterprise businesses. Since 1992, FareStart has provided opportunities for over 11,000 adults and youth, while serving over 16.6 million meals to Seattle area schools, homeless shelters and healthcare facilities. For more information, visit farestart.org

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