



JANUARY - DECEMBER 2023 IMPACT REPORT



This past year was a significant transition year as we continued to rebuild post-pandemic and move back toward our shared support model — balancing donations and earned revenue from our businesses — to support our mission and create more impact. As a social enterprise nonprofit focused on job training, our food-based businesses serve as classrooms for our students to learn on-the-job skills and help us sustainably fund our mission.

We successfully enrolled nearly 250 youth and adults across our training programs so students could learn new job skills. As we refocused our efforts toward on-the-job training within our businesses, we graduated our final cohort of Online Learning Program students. This program was launched in response to the pandemic so we could continue training students in a virtual environment. Between 2020 and 2023, the program served 260 students with life skills and self-empowerment training and wraparound support.

In 2023, we reopened both the FareStart Restaurant for private event rentals and the FareStart Café in Beacon Hill. The FareStart Café in South Lake Union (which reopened in 2022) enjoyed a robust business as more employees returned to the office. There was also considerable planning done to fully reopen the restaurant in 2024, including the re-introduction of Guest Chef Night events and the addition of new social enterprise businesses. The fruits of this work are already taking root in early 2024. We have hosted a couple of Guest Chef Nights and our new Box Lunch business launched in March 2024.

We continued to support food security, with nearly 900,000 meals provided to local nonprofits, shelters and schools. As we scale back to pre-pandemic meal production levels, we continue to activate our Mobile Community Market, which supported nearly 160 events across South King County in 2023.

All of this work requires considerable support from our community — financial and in-kind donations, volunteers, partners, patrons of our businesses, students, staff and others. We are grateful for your continued support and partnership during this critical time.



“When you hear the customer take a sip of their drink and say, Oh, man! That was good! ... [the students] are super pumped. You see them jumping up and down.”

– Chermell, FareStart Barista & Customer Service Training Supervisor

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249

adults and youth enrolled in job training programs.

172

individuals graduated from job training programs.

86

job placements or promotions facilitated for students and graduates.

159

mobile community market events in South King County.

863,402

meals provided to mostly food-insecure communities.

156,888

pounds of food recovered, gleaned, redistributed or upcycled into meals.

44

nonprofit organizations impacted across the United States through our consulting business.

“FareStart has been such an important step in my journey. My life’s been a complete 360 and now I’m going for it ... following and chasing after my dreams, which is food and feeding people.”

- Natalie, Food Pathways Graduate



Join Us In Our Work

FareStart is continuing to evolve and grow our job training programs, reimagine our social enterprise businesses and promote 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 impact in a new, post-pandemic employment landscape.

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