



## YOU SET THE TABLE FOR 13,200 THANKSGIVING CELEBRATIONS IN SPOKANE, THE COLUMBIA BASIN AND YAKIMA

### Spokane's Tom's Turkey Drive

Amidst the challenges of the COVID-19 crisis, Second Harvest's Tom's Turkey Drive was a huge success thanks to our incredible volunteers, donors and sponsors! With a new drive-thru format this year, the 21st annual Tom's Turkey Drive in Spokane provided 11,000 Thanksgiving meal boxes to people facing hunger in the Greater Spokane area. Three-hundred ninety-four volunteers spent a combined 228 hours building the meal boxes and 801 hours distributing them at the Spokane County Fairgrounds. Additionally, thanks to a generous food donor, another 760 families received a frozen turkey after all meal boxes had been distributed.

A single mom trying to make ends meet, **Jocelyn** forgot about Thanksgiving during her last trip to the grocery store. After buying food for herself and her five-year old daughter, there wasn't enough in her budget to purchase the ingredients for a holiday meal. That's why she was very grateful to be able to get everything she needed at Tom's Turkey Drive this year.

The food Jocelyn received from Tom's Turkey Drive would bring her not only nourishment this holiday but also joy,

since she loves to cook for herself and her daughter. As Jocelyn collected her meal box, she had a message for the many volunteers and donors who made Tom's Turkey Drive possible: **"Thank you for making the holiday hopeful and thankful – for everything that you do."**

Like many in our community, **Theresa** has been hit hard by the COVID-19 crisis. Her hours working in the housekeeping industry have been cut drastically. This has significantly decreased Theresa's income, making it hard to afford basic groceries, let alone a full Thanksgiving meal.

The food from Tom's Turkey Drive will allow her to create a hearty and delicious Thanksgiving dinner with her teenage son and fiancé. In challenging times like these, having a full Thanksgiving meal means a lot. "Anything helps, especially in this time," said Theresa. **"Full bellies always make everything better."**



Theresa was grateful to receive all the ingredients for a Thanksgiving dinner after losing most of her income due to the pandemic.

Tom's Turkey Drive was made possible thanks to its many sponsors: Rosauers, whose customers donated \$20 for each prepackaged Thanksgiving meal at area stores, KREM 2, Numerica Credit Union, Starbucks, Darigold, Washington Dairy Farmers, and Itron.

### Mid-Columbia and Yakima Valley Turkey Drive

Thanks to generous support from our volunteers, donors and sponsors for Second Harvest's fifth annual Mid-Columbia and Yakima Valley Turkey Drive. This year, volunteers at three distributions in Sunnyside, Yakima and Kennewick worked 358

hours to help distribute 2,200 Thanksgiving meal boxes to families in need throughout the Columbia Basin and Yakima Valley.

**Shelley** could hardly contain her gratefulness. **"I could just hug everybody here because I'm so happy about this."**

Of course, hugging isn't happening during the COVID-19 crisis, but Shelley's gratitude could still be felt as she picked up a Thanksgiving meal box this year.

Shelley couldn't wait to cook her turkey in her new oven—

one of the many things she was grateful for this Thanksgiving. She hasn't had an oven in more than ten years, including six years when she experienced homelessness.

"I'm so much more grateful this year. I've been doing a lot of work on myself, and I feel like things are getting better in my life," she said.

She hopes to continue to share that gratitude with others by volunteering in the community in the coming months.

Another retired woman expressed her gratitude as she left the Yakima distribution, saying, "If it weren't for this, I would've probably had an egg salad sandwich for Thanksgiving. This is just so helpful. I'm hoping to stretch this out for a lot of meals over the holidays. Thank you."

Local sponsors donated food and funds to the fifth annual Turkey Drive. This year's event was sponsored by Lamb Weston, Exponential Ag, AgriNorthwest, Corwin Ford Tri-Cities, and U-Pull-It Auto Parts.

# MOBILE MARKET BRINGS HEALTHY FOOD AND SMILES TO OUR COMMUNITY

“The kids get to stay with family. They get to stay with us, which is so important,” Jean explained as she waited in her car for a Mobile Market food distribution to begin. Jean was referring to two grandkids they had recently adopted, which brought the number of kids in her house up to 13. “This has been such a blessing from God because we have 13 kids in the house right now!”

Jean has been attending Second Harvest’s Mobile Market distributions in the Tri-Cities for about six weeks. She and her husband have taken charge of several of their grandkids to keep them safe in such turbulent times.

“We’re only on one income, and so far we’re doing okay. Our bills are being paid, but we’re struggling with clothes or when the kids get too big for their shoes,” she said. “We try to pass stuff on as hand-me-downs, but you can’t always do that either.”

In order to cut back on expenses, Jean and the kids have been getting creative and trying to have some fun. “We’re recycling and reusing everything and anything we can—all kinds of stuff that you can recycle or repurpose into so many different things. It creates science and craft projects for the kids, and it feels good!”

Still, their family is grateful that groceries haven’t been stretching their budget thinner. **“There were some times that, without the fresh vegetables that you provide, we wouldn’t have had any at all,”** she said.

Even with 13 kids in the house, Jean has also been picking up food for her elderly neighbor. “She has health issues and almost passed away a couple of months ago. She was the one who asked me to go to the distribution originally. That’s what brought me here,” Jean said. Whenever her neighbor sees an advertisement for a Mobile Market event in their area, she asks Jean if she can go and pick up food for her.

“I’m so happy she asked us because it has been helping our family so much, too,” she said. “The people have all been great. They’re nice. Even the waiting is well worth it. It’s been absolutely wonderful.”



Volunteers pack up food for families in need during the COVID-19 crisis.

## LEAVE A LEGACY



The Kay Porta Legacy Society honors individuals who envision a hunger-free Inland Northwest and choose to make Second Harvest a part of their legacy of generosity. The society establishes a strong foundation upon which lasting impact will be possible. We invite you to be part of the Kay Porta Legacy Society by remembering Second Harvest in your will, estate plan or trust.

To find out more, contact Melissa Cloninger at [melissa.cloninger@2-harvest.org](mailto:melissa.cloninger@2-harvest.org) or (509) 252-6274.

**“I enjoy the giving back, but I also enjoy the camaraderie of working with the other volunteers.”**

**-Jody, Second Harvest volunteer**



Hundreds of volunteers each year help pack Bite2Go kits for schoolchildren in food insecure homes.



# PASCO HUNGER SOLUTION CENTER BRINGS RELIEF TO YAKIMA VALLEY

Volunteers load food into cars to feed hundreds of families in the Yakima area.



bills have begun to pile up.

“We’re really scared because it seems like this will never end,” Maria said. They’re worried that if things don’t change soon, they’ll have to move to Texas to live with Maria’s brother. That’s why they are so relieved to be receiving help from Second Harvest today. “This is going to be so helpful. Thank you, thank you,” Joel said.

“This is an answer to our prayers,” Maria said. “Thank you so much, and God bless you.”

“ We’re really scared because it seems like this will never end. ”

Cars lined up almost a mile long in the streets of Grandview with people waiting for Second Harvest’s Mobile Market food distribution to begin. Sitting in their white Ford pickup, Joel and Maria have been waiting for over an hour.

This is their first time attending a Mobile Market event, and their relief is visible on their faces. “A friend told us about it. I don’t even know what we’ll be getting, but I’m already so happy this is here,” Maria said. Joel followed up with, “I’m happy she told us to come early!”

Both Joel and Maria are still working, but at very reduced hours. Joel works in landscaping, and business has been much slower than normal this year. Maria is a house cleaner and says, “There’s only about a quarter of the houses I usually clean. It’s been very hard.”

They’re grateful that Joel’s mom, Esther, lives with them and can help with their two kids—ages two and four.

It’s allowed Joel and Maria to be more flexible picking up odd jobs or helping friends for some extra cash. But, even with the extra help, it’s been a difficult year. The odd jobs have started to slow down, and the



The Mobile Market brings fresh produce and pantry staples to rural areas, which have been hit hard by the COVID-19 crisis.

## BASIC FOOD

Second Harvest strives to build healthier communities by increasing access to nutritious food for people in need. As part of that goal, we aim to connect more people with the Washington State Basic Food Program (formerly known as food stamps).

If you or someone you know needs help accessing monthly benefits for food, please visit [2-harvest.org/basic-food](https://2-harvest.org/basic-food).



# SPECIAL THANKS TO FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS

Meet some of our amazing supporters who helped feed hungry people in the Inland Northwest. Follow us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram to learn more – and look for a picture of your volunteer group!     

99.9, KXLY and the Jay and Kevin Show  
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Yakima Legends Casino  
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Yoke's Fresh Markets  
Zion Lutheran Church



# VOLUNTEER COVID-19 UPDATE

We know volunteering is an important and meaningful way people give back to their community. Our amazing volunteers are the lifeblood of Second Harvest and we are doing everything we can to create safe spaces for you to help your neighbors in need. The year 2020 created drastic changes to every aspect of Second Harvest, and the Volunteer Center was no exception. Safety concerns resulted in new schedules, new projects and a new volunteer base. Since the beginning of the pandemic, a wave of students, furloughed workers and committed individuals stepped up to help our neighbors in need during such troubling times.

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, our volunteers have seen changes to our operations in order to keep you safe. In our Spokane Hunger Solution Center, we have decreased volunteers-per-sort but have increased the number of weekly sorts, ensuring safety through social distancing while still being able to keep up with the hunger demands during this crisis. We've reinstated Family Sort Nights, where families with children nine and older can safely volunteer together to help sort and pack food for our partner agencies and Mobile Market food distributions.

Volunteers will be returning to our Pasco Hunger Solution Center this month. Due to various factors brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic, last summer Second Harvest suspended volunteer activities inside our Pasco facility. We're excited to welcome volunteers back the week of January 18. We're so appreciative of everything our volunteers do – and equally appreciative of the patience our Tri-Cities volunteer force has had during the pandemic. If you're interested in volunteering at either of Second Harvest's locations, visit [secondharvesttricity.volunteerhub.com](http://secondharvesttricity.volunteerhub.com) for opportunities in the Tri-Cities area or, if you are interested in volunteering in the Spokane area, visit [inland.volunteerhub.com](http://inland.volunteerhub.com). Watch for volunteer updates in our weekly emails and on social media.

## EVERY MEAL MATTERS, 365 DAYS A YEAR



When you give monthly as a FEED365 member, you'll create a reliable source of funding year-round to help provide healthy, fresh meals for families, children and seniors facing hunger in our community. Your monthly gift is easy to set up and manage, and it'll make a huge difference in the lives of people facing hunger in the Inland Northwest.

Give now at [2-harvest.org/feed365](http://2-harvest.org/feed365) and have your first month's donation matched up to \$5,000 thanks to Numerica Credit Union.

Find out more about how you can join the FEED365 by contacting Anna Bresnahan at [anna.bresnahan@2-harvest.org](mailto:anna.bresnahan@2-harvest.org) or (509)-256-6276 or visit [2-harvest.org/feed365](http://2-harvest.org/feed365).

**“I really love the way that Second Harvest makes it so easy for people to sign up and volunteer. They're so flexible, and it's an easy two-hour shift. You can come and feel like you've really accomplished something.” -Laurie, Second Harvest volunteer**



# PARTNERSHIP SPOTLIGHT: HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

“When the homeowner gets to see their home when it’s all completed, they look in the cupboard and the fridge, and they are amazed at how much food is inside,” said Ruth Ann Thompson, a member of the Family Services Team at Habitat for Humanity Tri-County Partners. She was referring to Habitat for Humanity’s partnership with Second Harvest, where Second Harvest stocks the shelves and refrigerator of a newly completed Habitat home with food.

“It’s quite stressful for the families, so any way we can make it an easier transition for them is very much worth our effort,” she said.

The Habitat for Humanity Tri-County Partners provides affordable housing for low-income families in Benton, Franklin and Walla Walla counties. If a low-income family meets the qualifying requirements and selection criteria, they can partner with Habitat for Humanity to build a home.

“A lot of people think the homes are basically free. That’s not how Habitat works,” explained Ruth



A family receives the key to their new house with a pantry full of food from Second Harvest.

Ann. “We look at the need, their willingness to partner and their ability to pay. We make sure their income meets the HUD requirements for low-income families. They are required to pay closing costs and to put in 500 hours of sweat equity.”

For families that qualify, going through the homeownership process for the first time can be challenging. The process usually takes 15 to 18 months, and Habitat recognized a need for outside support during the final stages. To ensure their families get off to a good start in their new home, Habitat partnered with Second Harvest to help alleviate stress for their new homeowners. Since 2010, Second Harvest has partnered with Habitat for Humanity for 92 homes, providing food for more than 400 children and 250 adults in Southeastern Washington.

“We really appreciate Second Harvest stepping up at the end when it’s stressful for them after the closing and they’re getting their apartment, or wherever they’re living, packed up and ready to move,” said Ruth Ann. “To know that when they walk into that home there is food available has been a big help to them.”



Food from Second Harvest helps Habitat for Humanity families get back on their feet.

**Fighting hunger, feeding hope,** Second Harvest brings community resources together to feed people in need through empowerment, education and partnerships.

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