ADVEST AGAINST HUNGER

King County Farmers Share 2019 annual report



utilizing a grant from the King Conservation District, relationships between farmers and food banks are developed to both support farmers and to increase access to healthy, fresh foods in food insecure populations

develop alleviate partner access support

develop contract models for program sites to use in purchasing produce from farmers alleviate hunger in food insecure King County communities partner between food banks and King County growers increase access to healthy, fresh produce in food insecure populations support farmers by providing a consistent outlet for their produce

flexibility

different agencies have different needs

relationships

supporting farmers and building sustainable networks

filling a gap

offering produce that is not often available and is nutrient dense to people who don't typically have access to it

supporting farmers through market stability

seconds produce

support farmers by providing a consistent outlet for their produce

pre-season contracting

farmers get funds upfront to help in traditionally lean winter and early spring months

post-sesason contracting

often used when there is an abundance of a particular in season crop that farmers need to sell quickly

farmer partner pounds of produce donations types purchased oxbow 1,159 lbs 10% discount beets, chard, kale, peppers, winter squash, green beans, parsley, carrots, collards, beans, radishes, celery, parsnips, leeks

white center food bank

"we've been able to offer beautiful, fresh produce to our customers at a time of year when we typically don't have much a great selection"

vashon maury food bank

"our island foodbank serves many people who may not have access to locally grown, low carbon footprint, organic produce. part of our mission is to get the food we grow to as many people as near to our farm as possible no matter their current financial situation. as a farm still working to be financially sustainable we cannot afford to donate food in the large volumes most useful to our foodbank. we are grateful to this program that lets us meet in the middle on pricing - we get to reach more folks in our community and the foodbank gets discounted locally grown, organic food"

farmer partners	northbourne farm matsuda farm forest garden farm provo farm
pounds purchased types purchased	745.5 lbs salad mix, broccoli, tomatoes, peaches, garlic, cucumbers, turnips, chard, kale, onions
pounds gleaned	397 lbs

nectarines, tomatoes, green beans, kale, cucumbers, cauliflower, lettuce

pounds gleaned types gleaned

spotlight agency vashon maury food bank

building relationships

funding provided by the King County Farmer's Share has fostered the creation of new relationships between the Vashon Food Bank and island farmers. each summer, island gardeners inundate the food bank with donations of enormous, overgrown zucchini and small quantities of high quality produce. our organization serves 200 clients weekly, many of whom represent large families.

four island farms were delighted to provide produce at prices and in quantities that allowed all food bank customers to take their share. Forest Garden Farm, Northbourne Farm, Provo Farms, and Matsuda Farm were delighted to provide food-insecure islanders with plentiful access to salad mix, turnips, onions, tomatoes, kale, peaches, garlic, and broccoli, totaling 745.5lbs.

as the summer progressed, farmers began reaching out with gleaning op-

portunities and donations of produce that were harvested, but unlikely to sell. Northbourne Farm invited Harvest for Vashon to glean 15lbs of kale and 55lbs of cherry and heirloom tomatoes. Matsuda Farm provided 100lbs of harvested cucumbers and 45lbs of harvested cauliflower, and two gleans yielding 70lbs of kale and 40lbs of green beans. Provo farms frequently added an extra 10lbs of tomatoes and peaches for free at pick up.

additionally, a fifth island farm attempted to participate in the program and ended up donating the contracted head lettuce for free due to a crop deficiency discovered during harvest. many local farmers have utilized the Vashon Food Bank to feed their families during the winter, and all of our participating farmers have expressed pride in providing prime, healthy produce to Vashon's underserved families.



university district food bank

"this program brought local produce into the food bank that wouldn't have been included otherwise. it was used to help launch our new pantry at Magnuson Park which reaches 100 families per week as well as supplement the produce we used for the 185 families on our home delivery program"

farmer partners Farmstand Local Foods Steel Wheel Oxbow Sound Vegetables Alki Market Garden Faith Beyond Summer Run

pounds purchased types purchased 2,666 lbs

radishes, zucchini, fava beans, rhubarb, peas, turnips, fennel, broccoli, beans, cucumber, squash, tomatoes, green beans, garlic, jalapeno peppers, onions, blueberries, lettuce, poblano peppers, chard, cauliflower, bell peppers, cabbage

south seattle college

"many students personally thanked us for bringing this amazing produce to them! students had expressions of wonder and delight, and many of them were introduced to new, healthy foods to cook at home"

farmer partner

pounds of produce donations types purchased frisky girl farms cascadia greens tonnemaker farms 927.5 lbs \$137.5 discount prize Choy, purple mizuna, vitamin greens, carrots, apples, pears, kale, chard, broccoli, potatoes, acorn squash, butternut squash, kabocha squash

farmer partner pounds of produce matching funds types purchased clean greens farm 1,375 lbs \$2500 asian radishes, hakurel turnips, bok choy, purple mustard greens, turnip greens, romaine lettuce, mustard greens, broccoli, collard greens, kale, rainbow chard, lemon cucumbers, green beans, melons

rainier valley food bank

"when clients expressed preferences or that they liked a specific produce we would re-order" by "building relationships with local farms"

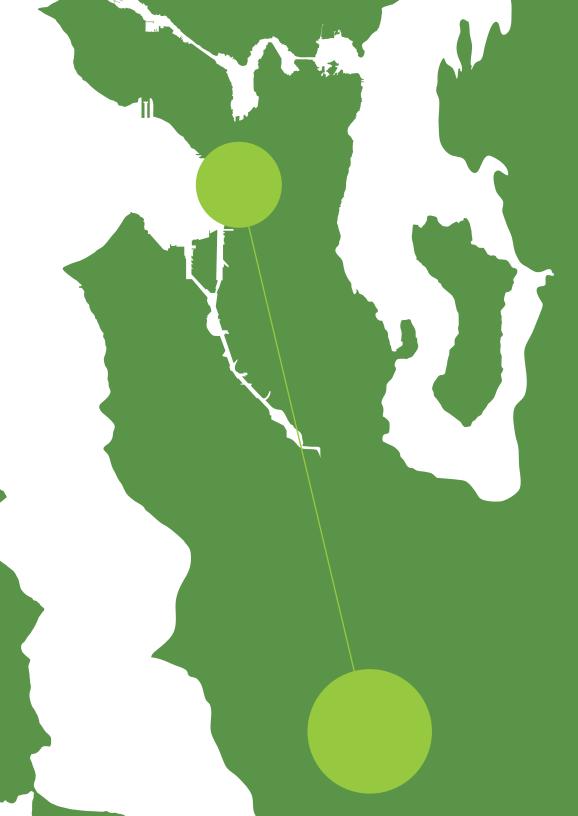
plateau outreach ministries

"it was great being able to buy foods from local farmers and support those who grow food locally. i loved being able to provide blue berries to our food bank clients a food that is usually to expensive for our client to budget in"

farmer partner

pounds of produce types purchased lily's fields farm small blessings farm

883.75 lbs Kale, Collards, Lettuce, Turnips, Kohlrabi, Peas, Chard, Green Onions, Blueberries, Tomatoes, Greens, Squash, Carrots, Peppers



pike place food bank

"we loved purchasing fresh produce from a local farm! one week that was especially memorable was the week where every visitor got to take home a pint of fresh cherry tomatoes. we received wonderful feedback from our clients"

farmer partner pounds of produce matching funds types purchased lee's fresh produce 2,591 lbs \$2038 peas zucchini pea vines green beans tomatoes beans cucumbers

farmer partner pounds of produce donations types purchased oxbow 2,000 lbs 10% discount romaine lettuce, squash, beans, kale, cucumber, carrots, zucchini, beets, peppers, celery, radishes, collards, parsnips, leeks

jewish family services

"having a dedicated fund for locally produced vegetables, really helped our overall budget and allowed us to use funds to purchase other essentials for our food bank program"



"we were able to strengthen our gleaning partnerships with the KCFS funding and well as provide food to other local food banks, including the Snoqualmie Valley Food Bank, the Issaqah Food Bank, Holy Innocents Catholic Church Food Bank, and other organizations such as Plateful and Praisealujah"

farmer partner

carnation farm local roots steel wheel farm

oxbow

pounds of produce matching funds types purchased 6,649 lbs \$8388.16 Cabbage, Cauliflower, Radishes, Beans, Beets, Carrots, Braising Mix, Parsley, Squash, Kale, Leeks, Collards, Parsnips, Radicchio

spotlight agency hopelink

flexibility to support farmers

with the King County Farm Share grant Hopelink has been able to build stronger relationships with local farms in the area by buying produce directly for our food banks. this has been helpful for Hopelink, but also has proven useful for the farmers as well.

on tuesday october 24th of 2019, the Snoqualmie Valley was flooded after intense rainfall. usually the farmers have more notice, but nature, as always, is unpredictable.

the monday before the flood it was all hands on deck for the farmers along the Snoqualmie River. many were out harvesting whatever they could until dusk fell. the forecast predicted that the flooding wouldn't reach its height until tuesday afternoon. while this was true for many farms further down the river, Steel Wheel Farm, being the first farm after Snoqualmie Falls in Fall City, was not so lucky. the night before the flood, Ryan Lichttenegger, owner and farmer, and his team were out all day harvesting and saving what they could, but he went to sleep thinking he would have more time the next day. Ryan's field flooded tuesday morning, completely covering and destroying almost all his 7 acres under production. this was a huge blow to the farm. losing crops means losing revenue and this can mean life or death for small farms. thankfully Steel Wheel was able to save enough food and had enough savings to ride out the flood damage.

using Hopelink's farm purchasing power thanks to King County Farm Share, we were able to place orders with Steel Wheel, and other local farms such as Local Roots Farm and Oxbow Farm in Carnation, to help mitigate the costly effects of the flood. our farm partners were able to move along perishable excess produce that was harvested because of the flood and our food bank clients were able to take home gorgeous organic produce. it was a win-win that strengthen our community and farmers.



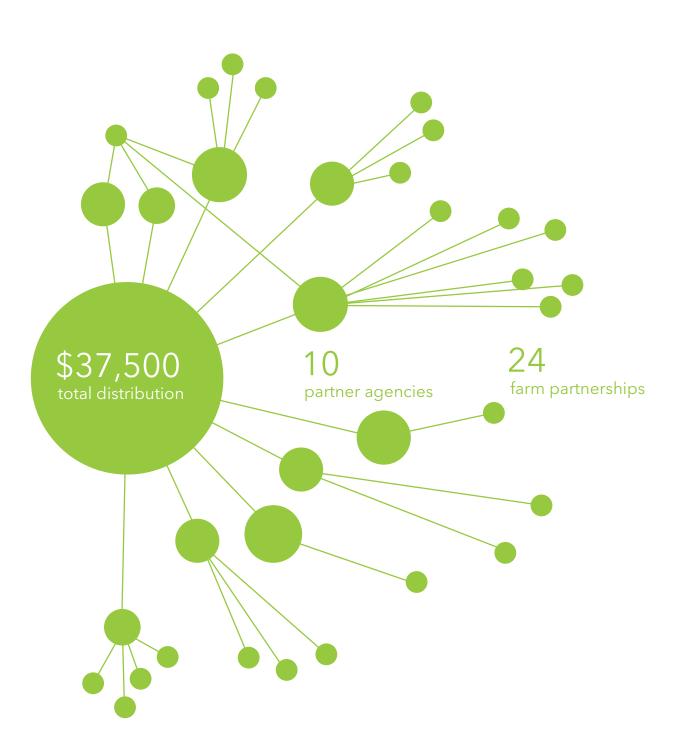
south king county food coalition

"i think the most important part of this program is being able to establish long-term relationships with farmers where they have the opportunity to grow financially"

farmer partner

pounds of produce donations types purchased windy acres farm namuna farms faith beyond farm

1,597 lbs \$1600 brussel sprouts, kale, collards, chard, peas, cabbage, zucchini, green beans, red kale, potatoes, basil, spinach, cilantro, carrots, acorn squash

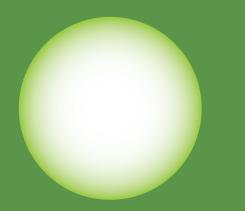




20,592 lbs total produce purchased

1159	white center
745	vashon maury
2666	university district
927	south seattle college
1375	rainier valley
883	plateau outreach ministries
2591	pike place
2000	jewish family services
6649	hopelink
1597	south king county

takeways from the inaugural year

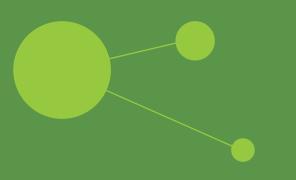


nutrient density

as hunger alleviation agencies seek to optimize their resources, tools such as nutrient density calculators help give relevant information.

easy to use infographics help illuminate the major variables of price, nutrient density and client preferences.

future work at Harvest Against Hunger will focus on further development of tools that help agencies make determinations of how to best use available resources



direct relationships

it is important for agencies to have direct relationships with farmers versus utilizing a produce aggregator

the direct link between the farmer and the agency has been shown to work best to form deeper bonds that are mutually beneficial



transportation

farmers are not always able to make deliveries to agencies and agencies are not always able to pick up produce at farm locations

this creates a transportation gap between the agencies and farms and is a barrier to expanding the program Harvest Against Hunger will examine possible solutions to overcoming this challenge

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