



Pacific Northwest Region Partners with Foundation to Boost Access to Fresh Food and Sustain Local Farms



Leah Abell | Pacific NW Regional Office Seattle, WA

Leah's 10 years with Whole Foods Market has allowed her to fulfill a **personal mission** to celebrate and strengthen her community. As the region's Community Engagement and Events Team Leader, Leah manages and advances relationships with local nonprofits. She has witnessed firsthand the **positive impact** these nonprofits make on her community. "I continue to work at Whole Foods Market and think many of my fellow Team Members do as well, because we believe everyone deserves **access to fresh, nutritious food**," explains Leah. "We are fortunate to be able to partner with **organizations working to find solutions**." She has managed the relationship with Pike Place Market Foundation for several years and this is the second Community First Grant the region has secured on their behalf.

Pike Place Market Foundation pikeplacemarketfoundation.org

The Pike Place Market Foundation nurtures a **thriving community** so that everyone within it has the opportunity to live their best lives possible. Since 1982, the foundation has granted \$31 million to support low-income housing, health care, high-quality preschool, an active community and to fund capital needs. One way they support the health of their low-income neighbors is by providing **increased access to the abundance of healthy food** in the market. In turn, they also help to **sustain local businesses and farms**. The Community First Grant will support the Food Access Program, which includes coupons and discounts on produce and subsidized **Community Supported Agriculture** boxes. The program primarily serves community members with limited resources and people experiencing homelessness who live, work or frequent the market and downtown community.



Whole Foods Market Team Members can nominate a local nonprofit increasing access to fresh, healthy food or nutrition education for a \$5,000 grant.

WholeCitiesFoundation.org



Pacific Northwest Region Partners with Grassroots Organization to Bring Healthy Cooking Classes Statewide



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As the Community Engagement and Events Team Leader, Leah witnesses the impact nonprofit partners make daily. Her community engagement team has **built partnerships** with many local organizations tackling hunger, food insecurity, homelessness and social justice. “I wouldn’t still be doing this work after 10 years if it didn’t fulfill **a personal mission** as well,” Leah explains. “I’m happy when I’m able to personally support our nonprofit partners, whether through financial donation, event attendance or volunteering.” She feels fortunate to have managed the **successful partnership** between Whole Foods Market and Solid Ground for several years. Leah secured the third Community First Grant for the nonprofit and looks forward to **advancing the relationship** through additional giving programs, volunteer opportunities and expanding Solid Ground’s visibility.

Solid Ground solid-ground.org

Since 1974, Solid Ground has been a leader in **the fight against poverty** in Seattle and beyond by combining direct services with policy and systems change to meet basic needs, nurture success and catalyze change. They serve more than 76,000 people annually, equipping people with the resources and skills they need to find stability. Solid Ground recognizes the importance of combining access to **healthy food with nutrition information** and offers **immersive education experiences** that emphasize nutrition and healthy cooking affordably. Their courses, Cooking Matters and Cooking in the Classroom, are **designed to meet the needs** of various target audiences. The Community First Grant will support their Community Food Education team as they **travel and teach** at more than 50 sites throughout the state.



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WholeCitiesFoundation.org



Pacific Northwest Region Partners with Leading Farm Business Incubator to Train Farmers & Provide Fresh Food Access



Leah Abell | Pacific NW Regional Office Seattle, WA

Leah is the region's Community Engagement and Events Team Leader and works to build **strong partnerships** with local organizations tackling issues like food insecurity, homelessness and social justice. Her **commitment** is also personal. Outside of work hours, she gives her own money and time to local nonprofits in hope of strengthening the community. She is committed to **improving access to fresh, nutritious food** in Washington and supporting Viva Farms is a way she and Whole Foods Market can help. She's worked to **promote the partnership** to both regional and store Team Members. Leah secured a Community First Grant on behalf of the Viva Farms in hopes of cultivating the organization's growth and securing Whole Foods Market's role as a **valuable resource** for them.

Viva Farms vivafarms.org

Viva Farms empowers beginning and limited-resourced farmers to build **viable farm businesses**, by providing bilingual training in organic agriculture practices, and access to organic farmland, infrastructure and equipment, market outlets and capital support. Their goal is to ensure that we have a **next generation of sustainable family farms**, and in turn, abundant access to locally produced food for their communities. Their **food access work** is most visible through its **Community Supported Agriculture (CSA)** program, through which they deliver 250 boxes of local produce, grown by their incubator farmers, to families. Anyone with **SNAP benefits** can purchase the boxes at half price. The Whole Cities Foundation grant will support **outreach and education** to SNAP beneficiaries such as community listening sessions, educational videos and informational packets.



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WholeCitiesFoundation.org