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

Shawn Gross | Pacific NW Regional Office
Portland, OR

“By expanding fresh and healthy food access in underserved communities, you are holistically changing the outcomes and behaviors these communities are subject to. Whether that is tackling food deserts due to poor community planning or educating individuals on meal prep, alleviating hunger is a great first step in a social movement,” explains Shawn, an in-store and local Marketing Specialist. He applied for a Community First Grant because he believes that every great social change comes from within a network of community actions. Through the partnership between the regional office, local stores and Mercy Corp, Shawn hopes Whole Foods Market can play a part in increasing the public discourse around women’s issues and ultimately, help Portland become a beacon of change.

Mercy Corps
mercycorpsnw.org

Mercy Corps aims to build thriving communities by providing individuals with small business education and financing while advocating for equitable opportunities. They work with those who have been historically marginalized, including those incarcerated. Through two core programs, Mercy Corps strives to help participants make a successful transition to life outside of prison. Participants of their gardening program gain practical skills and develop a work ethic that will prove favorable in obtaining employment. Their 32-week accredited LIFE (Lifelong Information for Entrepreneurs) program provides valuable life skills, as well as business planning and training designed to increase participants potential for self-employment, resilience and financial stability upon release. Whole Cities Foundation is proud to support Mercy Corps as they empower future microentrepreneurs.

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