

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

CONTACT: Regina Anderson, Food Recovery Network, +1 (240) 615-8813,  
regina.anderson@foodrecoverynetwork.org, www.foodrecoverynetwork.org

### **Food Recovery Network Partners with Whole Foods Market in Florida for 5% Community Giving Day and Raises \$158,832.74**

FORT LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA — April, 25, 2019 — On Thursday, April 18, 2019 all twenty-nine of Whole Foods Market's locations in the state of Florida donated 5% of their net sales to Food Recovery Network (FRN) as a part of their 5% Community Giving Day. These funds will go to expand FRN's ability to reduce food waste and alleviate hunger in Florida. Food Recovery Network currently has eight official chapters and three Chapters in Progress (CHIPs) in the state of Florida. Each chapter works to recover perfectly good surplus food from their dining halls and local restaurants. The recovered food is then donated to a nonprofit partner agency that distributes the food to those who need it most in their communities such as homeless shelters, soup kitchens, and churches.

According to a study by [Feeding America](#), more than 2.8 million people are food insecure in the state of Florida, with nearly 900,000 of them being children. In simpler terms, one in seven people in Florida do not know where their next meal will come from, including one in five children. However, Food Recovery Network's chapters in Florida are combatting this crippling problem through food recovery. To date, Florida chapters have recovered more than 75,000 pounds of surplus food, which is equivalent to nearly 70,000 meals donated to those in need. Food Recovery Network Manager of External Partnerships Cassie Olovsson said, "we are so grateful that Whole Foods Market believes in our mission and our recovery approach as much as we do and that they are willing to join us in our fight against food waste and hunger in Florida."

FRN student leaders from Florida State University and the University of Central Florida tabled at Whole Foods Market locations near their campuses to share the benefits of food recovery with customers. Jessica Ziadie, a leader at the University of Central Florida Food Recovery Network Chapter in Progress, said, "it was such a great opportunity to share our mission and work with people who would not normally hear it. As a CHIP, we are proof that FRN and food recovery is expanding in Florida, and students want to be a part of this movement."

A week after the 5% Community Giving Day, on Thursday April 25, Olovsson and Regina Anderson, Food Recovery Network's Executive Director, met with Whole Foods Market's In-Store & Local Marketing Specialist, Lisa Held, and Senior Marketing Specialist, Jonny Rose, to receive a \$158,832.74 check, the amount raised for FRN. Anderson said, "Food Recovery Network is seeking partnerships like this so we can continue to expand our work. FRN will immediately begin to reinvest this money into the work we're actively engaged in throughout Florida. This investment will support our outstanding students who've dedicated their time and energy to make food recovery the norm on their campuses and alleviate hunger from their communities." Food Recovery Network is proud to partner with Whole Foods Market to spearhead the movement of increasing food security and decreasing food waste in Florida.

### **About Food Recovery Network**

Food Recovery Network (FRN) unites and supports college student leaders in the fight against food waste and hunger in America. Since 2011, FRN students have recovered more than 3 million pounds of surplus food, that would otherwise go to waste, from their campus cafeterias and local restaurants to donate to hungry Americans. Food Recovery Network has more than 200 college campus chapters in 44 states and the District of Columbia. For more information about Food Recovery Network, visit [www.foodrecoverynetwork.org](http://www.foodrecoverynetwork.org). Follow us on Twitter @FoodRecovery and Instagram @FoodRecovery and like us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/FoodRecoveryNetwork](http://www.facebook.com/FoodRecoveryNetwork).

###