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Food Recovery Network Partners with Whole Foods Market in Southern California, Arizona for 5% Community Giving Day

[COLLEGE PARK, MARYLAND] — October 9, 2019 — On Thursday, October 17, 2019, Whole Foods Market locations in Southern California and Arizona are partnering with Food Recovery Network (FRN) for their 5% Community Giving Day. Five percent of net sales from purchases at forty-five stores in California and ten stores in Arizona will be donated to Food Recovery Network to help expand food recovery and food waste reduction efforts in those areas. Currently, there are fourteen Food Recovery Network chapters on college campuses in Southern California and three chapters in Arizona. 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 the California Association of Food Banks, while California produces almost half of the nation’s fruits and vegetables, one in eight Californians are food insecure. Food insecurity is the lack of consistent access to healthy foods. Food Recovery Network’s chapters in the state seek to combat this problem through food recovery, with Southern California chapters recovering and donating 206,000 meals for people in need. In the neighboring state of Arizona, one in six Arizonans experience food insecurity, according to the Arizona Association of Food Banks. Food Recovery Network’s three chapters in Arizona have recovered and donated over 14,000 meals to hunger-fighting nonprofits. For both areas, Food Recovery Network seeks to increase the amount of recovered and donated food with the support of Whole Foods Market.

Funding from Whole Foods Market’s 5% Community Giving Day will be used by Food Recovery Network to continue expanding food recovery work in Southern California and Arizona. “Our student leaders work hard to bring perfectly good food to those in need everyday. They are the drivers and motor of this cultural shift that demands we no longer toss out food that can feed our neighbors,” said Food Recovery Network Executive Director, Regina Anderson. “We’re honored to work alongside food industry leaders at Whole Foods Market to continue expanding food recovery work in the
United States. This partnership is one of the biggest steps in our history to provide funding to support our networks in Southern California and the whole state of Arizona.”

Food Recovery Network will be tabling at several Whole Foods Market stores in Southern California and Arizona, providing shoppers with information about food recovery, waste reduction, and ways community members can get involved with these efforts in their own neighborhoods. From 11am-1pm on October 17, Food Recovery Network representatives will be stationed at Whole Foods Market locations in Tustin, La Jolla, Porter Ranch, and Arroyo in Southern California; and in Tucson, Tempe, and Flagstaff in Arizona.

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 3.9 million pounds of surplus food, which 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. Follow us on Twitter @FoodRecovery and Instagram @FoodRecovery and like us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/FoodRecoveryNetwork.

About Whole Foods Market
For almost 40 years, Whole Foods Market has been the world’s leading natural and organic foods retailer. As the first national certified organic grocer, Whole Foods Market has more than 500 stores in the United States, Canada and United Kingdom. To learn more about Whole Foods Market, please visit https://media.wholefoodsmarket.com/.