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Food Recovery Network Partners with Whole Foods Market in Southern California and Arizona for 5% Community Giving Day, Raises $218,984.78

[COLLEGE PARK, MARYLAND] — October 30, 2019 — On Thursday, October 17, 2019, Whole Foods Market locations in Southern California and Arizona partnered with Food Recovery Network (FRN) for their 5% Community Giving Day, raising $218,984.78. Forty-five Whole Foods Market stores in Southern California and ten stores in Arizona donated 5% of net sales to help expand food recovery and food waste reduction efforts in those regions. 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.

To date, FRN’s student-led chapters in Southern California have recovered and donated more than 206,000 meals for people in need. In the neighboring state of Arizona, FRN chapters have recovered and donated more than 14,000 meals to hunger-fighting nonprofits. In Arizona, FRN and Whole Foods Market will support more businesses in establishing food recovery programs, helping reduce the environmental impact of their food waste and benefiting their communities as a whole. FRN and Whole Foods Market will expand the Move Out For Hunger (MOFH) campaign in Southern California to more schools, making food recovery the norm in higher education. This funding will also be used to launch Regional Outreach Coordinator (ROCs) programs in both states, providing FRN student leaders with the opportunity to engage meaningfully with FRN National and other FRN chapters in their geographic region.

During Whole Foods Market 5% Community Giving Day, FRN staff and student leaders tabled 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. Food Recovery Network staff also facilitated discussions with locals in La Jolla, Arroyo, and Porter Ranch in Southern California to learn more about how individuals in the community feel about food access and food recovery.
Julia Ormond, FRN’s Program & Special Events VISTA, met with FRN student leaders from Scripps College at the Whole Foods Market Arroyo store in Pasadena, CA. “I am so inspired by the creativity and positivity I saw in these students,” said Ormond. “We are all excited to see how our chapters will incorporate their dreams into this school year and continue staying connected with the food recovery movement post-graduation.”

As a result of 5% Community Giving Day, Whole Foods Market will donate a total of $218,984.78 to Food Recovery Network. “We are so honored to be chosen as the recipient of this funding,” said Food Recovery Network’s Executive Director, Regina Anderson. “This investment will be used to continue advancing food recovery work in Southern California and Arizona by supporting our student leaders who are making a huge difference in their communities.”

**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](http://www.foodrecoverynetwork.org). Follow us on Twitter @FoodRecovery and Instagram @FoodRecovery and like us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/FoodRecoveryNetwork](https://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/](https://media.wholefoodsmarket.com/).