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**FARESTART**<sup>®</sup>  
*Great Food. Better Lives.*

## **FareStart Receives \$500,000 Grant from the Walmart Foundation**

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**Seattle (June 13, 2012)** — FareStart announced today that it has received a \$500,000 grant from the Walmart Foundation to help eliminate hunger and poverty. FareStart is a social enterprise organization dedicated to empowering homeless and disadvantaged men, women and youth to transform their lives through culinary job training. Over the past 20 years, FareStart has provided opportunities for nearly 6,000 people to transform their lives, while also serving over 5 million meals to disadvantaged individuals. FareStart will re-grant the majority of the funds—\$400,000—to organizations across the country through FareStart’s national effort, Catalyst Kitchens.

“This generous grant from the Walmart Foundation will allow us to continue to scale our impact nationally through our Catalyst Kitchens network and will have a truly significant impact on the individuals seeking to lift themselves out of poverty,” said Megan Karch, CEO of FareStart. “We’re honored and grateful for this incredible gift.”

FareStart provides opportunities to more than 300 students each year through its Adult Culinary Program and Barista Training & Education Program for at-risk youth. In addition to job training, students receive vital support services including life-skills classes, assistance with housing, and help with finding employment. Although the program is free, adult students give back to the community beginning their first day by preparing the food that is delivered 365 days a year to homeless shelters and low-income daycare centers throughout the Puget Sound—589,463 meals in 2011 alone.

In early 2011, FareStart launched Catalyst Kitchens to help bring the success of FareStart to communities across the country. Catalyst Kitchens is a collaborative network of organizations with a shared vision to empower lives through job training, self-generate revenue through social enterprise, and nourish bodies and minds through quality foodservice. Catalyst Kitchen’s national network is currently comprised of 32 members, all of whom are empowering and transforming lives through job training.

“This grant represents a true milestone for our national effort,” said David Carleton, vice president, national for FareStart and Catalyst Kitchens. “It will allow us to provide grants to our member network for the first time, enabling our member organizations to grow and scale their impact,” Carleton continued. “We’ve always said that our organizations can be better and stronger together and by re-granting these funds, we’re demonstrating that.”

FareStart and Catalyst Kitchens will award a total of \$400,000 through a competitive proposal process with \$200,000 granted to Model Members within the Catalyst Kitchens network and \$200,000 for Rising Members. Grants ranging in size from \$15,000 to \$60,000 will be awarded based on incremental impact of proposed projects, with a focus on three major areas:

- Empowerment through Training: This includes the total number of trainees, job placement rates, number of trainees placed in jobs, job retention rates, and wage progression.
- Sustainability through Social Enterprise: Revenue generated for the organization by social enterprise activities and businesses, such as cafes and restaurants.
- Community Service through Quality Foodservice: Number of nutritious meals provided to the community, including the positive nutritional impact (whole foods versus processed foods).

FareStart and Catalyst Kitchens expect to award the grants by the end of June 2012. For more information on Farestart, visit [www.farestart.org](http://www.farestart.org). To learn more about Catalyst Kitchens and the national member network, visit [www.catalystkitchens.org](http://www.catalystkitchens.org).

#### **About FARESTART**

FareStart provides a community that transforms lives by empowering homeless and disadvantaged men, women, and families to achieve self-sufficiency through life skills, job training and employment in the food service industry. Over the past 20 years, FareStart has provided opportunities for nearly 6,000 people to transform their lives, while also serving over 5 million meals to disadvantaged men, women, and children. Every day, men and women transform their lives in the adult program, which includes culinary training, life-skills classes, counseling, and assistance with housing, food, clothing and other support services to assist FareStart students as they change their lives. FareStart's Graduate Support Services program provides ongoing guidance to adult graduates, providing a full year (and sometimes longer) of support to help individuals move forward to self-sufficiency. FareStart, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, generates about one third of its annual operating revenue through business operations, such as Guest Chef Night at the FareStart Restaurant. For more information, visit [www.farestart.org](http://www.farestart.org).

#### **About CATALYST KITCHENS**

In 2011, FareStart launched Catalyst Kitchens to help bring the success of FareStart to communities across the country. Catalyst Kitchens is a collaborative network of organizations with a shared vision to empower lives through job training, self-generate revenue through social enterprise, and nourish bodies and minds through quality foodservice. Catalyst Kitchen's national network is currently comprised of 32 members, including Life's Kitchen (Boise, Idaho), Liberty's Kitchen (New Orleans, La.), Inspiration Corporation (Chicago, Ill.), and DC Central Kitchen (Washington, D.C.). Over the next five years, Catalyst Kitchens will multiply the impact of foodservice job training and social enterprise by leveraging the experience of model members across the country. Catalyst Kitchens aims to launch 50 new programs, provide job training to 6,000 individuals, and serve more than 10 million nutritious meals. For more information, visit [www.catalystkitchens.org](http://www.catalystkitchens.org).

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