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FareStart's National Effort *Catalyst Kitchens* Gives \$400,000 in Grants to Network of Member Organizations Across the United States

Seattle (July 30, 2012) — [FareStart](#) announced today that its national effort, [Catalyst Kitchens](#), has provided \$400,000 in grants to member organizations within its national, collaborative network. FareStart is a social enterprise organization dedicated to empowering homeless and disadvantaged men, women and youth to transform their lives through culinary job training and employment in the food service industry. The funds were provided to FareStart in early 2012 through a \$500,000 grant from the Walmart Foundation to help eliminate hunger and poverty. FareStart and Catalyst Kitchens will use the remaining funds to scale the network and grow its collective impact.

“These grants are a step forward in our collective effort to eliminate poverty and hunger while helping those in need create opportunities for themselves,” said David Carleton, vice president of national for FareStart and director of Catalyst Kitchens. “Funds from the grants will help our member organizations expand or add programs for a greater impact locally, all of which add up to meaningful progress nationally.”

Over the past 20 years, FareStart has provided opportunities for nearly 6,000 people to transform their lives, while also serving over five million meals to disadvantaged individuals. 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 33 members located throughout the United States and internationally, all of whom are empowering and transforming lives through job training.

Grants were awarded to 14 member organizations through a competitive proposal process. Ranging in size from \$5,000 to \$50,000, grants were awarded based on incremental impact of proposed projects, with a focus on three major areas, including empowerment through job training, sustainability through social enterprise, and community service through quality foodservice.

The majority of funds will be used for projects ranging from expanding training programs, to hiring new staff, and facility or business expansions. For example, Liberty's Kitchen in New Orleans—which provides youth ages 16-22 with a path to self-sufficiency through food service-based training, comprehensive mental health services, education, and work readiness programs—will use their grant to expand their Healthy School Lunch Program. The

grant will enable the lunch program to serve a larger number of low-income schoolchildren with healthy, scratch-made meals as well as provide training to more individuals in their Youth Development Program.

“As a young organization, our membership in Catalyst Kitchens has saved us valuable time and resources and helped us to successfully grow our mission activities and impact on the community,” says Janet Davas, executive director of Liberty’s Kitchen in New Orleans. “Creating job training and economic opportunities for young adults while simultaneously providing healthy, fresh meals to undernourished public school children is a powerful model. We are grateful to Catalyst Kitchens—and now the Walmart Foundation—for all their critical support and collaboration.”

The following Model Members received grants ranging in size from \$16,000-\$35,000:

- ARC Broward (Sunrise, Fla.)
- D.C. Central Kitchen (Washington D.C.)
- Inspiration Corporation (Chicago, Ill.)
- Liberty’s Kitchen (New Orleans, La.)
- Life’s Kitchen (Boise, Idaho)
- St. Patrick’s Center (St. Louis, Mo.)
- Winston Salem Food Bank of Northwest North Carolina/Triad Community Kitchen (Winston Salem, N.C.)

The following Rising Members received grants ranging in size from \$5,000-\$50,000:

- Aspen Pointe (Colorado Springs, Colo.)
- Community Café (Baker, La.)
- Homeward Bound of Marin (Novato, Calif.)
- Lower Columbia Community Action Program (Longview, Wash.)
- More Than Words (Waltham, Mass.)
- St. Vincent de Paul Baltimore (Baltimore, Md.)
- Springboard Kitchens (Pittsburg, Pa.)

In 2011, Catalyst Kitchen’s member programs provided training to over 1,400 individuals across 18 states—individuals who were homeless or on the verge, had only limited formal education, had served time in prison, or had no place to turn. Over 60 percent successfully completed the program and 86 percent achieved a successful outcome, be it stable housing, further education or a living wage job. Together, the member organizations produced over 4.2 million low-cost, nutritious meals for their communities. Over the next four years, Catalyst Kitchens aims to launch 50 new programs, quadrupling annual training capacity to 6,000 individuals, with over 10 million nutritious meals produced and delivered to those in need, and over \$15 million in self-generated revenues, with all net proceeds being used to sustain the mission.

For more information on FareStart, visit www.farestart.org. To learn more about Catalyst Kitchens and the national member network, visit 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.

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 33 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.

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