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Whole Foods Market® Bend Donates To NeighborImpact

Bend community donates over 3000 pounds of food for families in need

Bend, OR. (January 25, 2010) - Whole Foods Market is pleased to announce a donation of 3,460 pounds of nutritious food to NeighborImpact Food Bank.

This donation is the result of the store's Bag Hunger program held during November and December 2009. Bend customers supported the program by purchasing specially made bags of groceries which were then given directly to the NeighborImpact Food Bank.

The 3,460 pounds of food is enough for 69 emergency food boxes or over 2,450 meals to families in need.

"Many thanks to the staff of Whole Foods who put time into making this a successful program by putting bags of food together and pricing them," said Steve Murray, NeighborImpact Food Bank coordinator. "Your selection of products showed a commitment to providing balance and quality."

"We are so happy to offer this donation to NeighborImpact," said Jason Valdez, marketing specialist at Whole Foods Market Bend. "This organization is very close to our hearts. At Whole Foods Market we believe that everyone should be able to eat and live well."

Founded in 1985, NeighborImpact is a private nonprofit organization established to serve and speak out for economically disadvantaged people in Central Oregon. Their mission is to break the cycle of poverty by helping remove the barriers that prevent people from achieving economic self-sufficiency.

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About Whole Foods Market® in Oregon and Southwest Washington

The new Whole Foods Market Hollywood is the eighth store in the Oregon and Southwest Washington region – four in Portland, and one each in Hillsboro, Tigard, Bend and Vancouver, Wash. – all of which contribute 830 jobs to the local economy. Whole Foods Market (www.wholefoodsmarket.com) is a leader in the natural and organic foods industry and America's first national certified organic grocer. The Whole Foods Market motto, "Whole Foods, Whole People, Whole Planet"™ captures the company's mission to find success in customer satisfaction and wellness, employee excellence and happiness, enhanced shareholder value, community support and environmental improvement. Oregon's Whole Foods Market stores are committed to their communities, sourcing locally grown and produced products whenever possible and donating more than \$60,000 to local charities and nonprofit groups as a result of community giving programs in 2008. Based in Austin, Texas, Whole Foods Market has been ranked as one of the "100 Best Companies to Work For" in America by *FORTUNE* magazine for 12 consecutive years.