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A Message from the Governor

March 26 – 31, 2012

Migrant farmworkers play a critical role in planting and harvesting crops in Washington State and across the country. In our state alone, it is estimated that as many as 187,000 migrant and seasonal farmworkers assist with the cultivation and harvest of crops each year.

An increasing number of farmworkers are single mothers, who have to make difficult decisions between providing food and shelter for their households and seeking medical attention. In order to help address this troubling trend, Catholic Housing Services has launched the “Creating Futures for Farm Workers in Western Washington” initiative, which will raise funds for building financially and operationally affordable housing and providing health and social services for farmworkers and their families.

These funds will be raised through a partnership with local restaurants that will offer a special “Cesar Chavez Salad” in honor of the inspirational leader who devoted himself to making all people aware of the struggles of farmworkers, such as the lack of safe drinking water; substandard and crowded housing; and inadequate sanitation, bathing and laundry facilities.

I applaud Catholic Housing Services and its partners for their work to improve the health, safety, and quality of life of farmworkers. Their efforts not only benefit the families they directly touch, but also strengthen the broader farming community and our state as a whole.

Sincerely,

Christine O. Gregoire
Governor