

**Media Contact:**

Taunya Covington, Media Specialist  
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints  
(206) 369-7229, [taunyac@hotmail.com](mailto:taunyac@hotmail.com)

**For Immediate Release****The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Partners with Catholic and Muslim Organizations in Puget Sound Area to Distribute 78,000 lbs of Food**

**SEATTLE – April 30, 2020** – An estimated 78,000 lbs. of food will be delivered by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints to faith organizations in the Puget Sound area to assist families in need. Truckloads of food staples were dispatched from a central storehouse in Salt Lake City, Utah in response to requests from partners for assistance with urgent food insecurity and household needs caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

On Wednesday, 40,000 lbs. of food commodities were delivered to Catholic Community Services (CCS) and Catholic Housing Services (CHS). In partnership with St. Vincent de Paul, food provisions will be distributed to Seattle-based Georgetown Food Bank and delivered to 12 locations that provide housing for farmworkers. Smaller amounts are being shipped to Catholic Charities of Eastern Washington and Catholic Charities of Central Washington.

With over 170 programs, CCS and CHS in Western Washington is the largest private social service provider in the state serving nearly 100,000 people in need each year. One of the 12 locations, the CCS Farmworker Center, provides a welcoming place for farmworker families to connect with educational and community resources and receive support to become effective advocates for their community's needs. CCS Farmworker Center Program Coordinator Guillermina Bazante responded to receiving the food stuffs, "So many farmworkers are telling us they have lost jobs and are worried about feeding their families. It's about getting the right help at the right time and this food is exactly what they need right now."

Today a truckload with an additional 38,000 lbs. of food from The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints will be delivered to the Muslim Association of Puget Sound (MAPS) and Muslim Community Resource Center (MCRC) located in Redmond to help feed families during the month of Ramadan.

The Muslim Community Resource Center (MCRC) is a service organization led and managed by a group of community volunteers passionate about helping the less fortunate. The organization partners with like-minded, faith-based organizations (Muslim & non-Muslim), city and local services, and assistance providers to serve community needs. As COVID-19 spreads, MAPS and MCRC are continuing to help individuals and families needing humanitarian and financial assistance until the situation stabilizes, and has scaled programs to help anyone impacted. MCRC founder and CEO Nickhath Sheriff said the guiding principle for the Center and their service is, "Love for Humanity what you love for yourself."

Elder Michael R. Murray, a North America West area leader for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints said the Church works on a worldwide basis with local congregational leaders, government officials and trusted partners to determine what supplies and food are needed. "Latter-day Saints try to follow Jesus Christ's teachings by providing food, shelter and comfort where and when needed," Murray said. "We give because He gave. We love because He loved. We lift others because it is an integral part of our faith."

Deliveries to the Puget Sound area this week originated from Bishops' Storehouses and are funded by donations from Latter-day Saints. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints has Bishop's Storehouses located around the world to efficiently serve the needs of people in need. The Church has increased food production to keep up with the demand for supplies.

Both CCS/CHS and MCRC/MAPS are essential non-profit service organizations. Social distancing practices will be followed during delivery and distribution.