



“Bartell Drugs’ Stock the Pantry” food drive begins May 30-- helping to feed out-of-school children and families during summer months

SEATTLE—“Bartell Drugs’ Stock the Pantry” food drive supporting Northwest Harvest kicks off May 30 with all Bartell’s store locations accepting non-perishable food donations through June 12.

Now in its third year, the two-week drive by Bartell Drugs focuses on replenishing food bank, meal program and school food stocks in King, Snohomish and Pierce counties during summer months--when families that normally depend on free or reduced-price school meals may struggle to provide healthy meals at home.

“Year-round hunger is an unfortunate reality for many children and their families. Through the generous contributions by our customers, we’re proud to support Northwest Harvest with this effort,” said Bartell’s Chairman & CEO George D. Bartell.

With support from KOMO 4’s “Problem Solvers” and other Fisher Communications partners-- Univision Seattle, KOMOnews.com, KOMO Newsradio, STAR 101.5 and 570 KVI—Bartell’s hopes to exceed the 18,171 pounds of food donated by Bartell’s customers in 2010.

The food drive launch includes major donation events Wednesday, June 1 from 6 am to 7 pm at Bartell Drugs’ Factoria and Redondo locations. With on-site appearances throughout the day by news and on-air personalities from Fisher Communications, the goal is to fill Northwest Harvest trucks accepting donations at the two stores. The public is invited at both locations to purchase and donate pre-packed grocery bags—containing food items for nine meals—for just \$10.

“Bartell Drugs’ Stock the Pantry” drive builds on a long-time relationship between Bartell’s and Northwest Harvest, including holiday food drives.

“In 2010, over 450,000 children (almost half of all students) across the state were eligible for free or reduced-price breakfast and lunch during the school year,” said Shelley Rotondo, executive director of Northwest Harvest. “Of those children, only 9% participated in a summer meal program last year due in part to transportation issues, the availability of feeding sites, and other factors. This really highlights the need for a summer food drive that benefits children.”

Seattle-based Bartell Drugs owns and operates 58 stores throughout King, Pierce and Snohomish counties. Family-owned since 1890, it is the oldest drugstore chain in the United States.

For more information on Bartell Drugs, visit www.bartelldrugs.com

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