



reduce hunger with dignity.
build community. foster sustainability.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Non-profit surplus food redistributor Quest Food Exchange presented with \$100,000 USD Walmart Foundation grant at Richmond North Walmart Supercentre Grand Opening

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Vancouver, BC (October 27, 2016) Local non-profit surplus food redistributor Quest Food Exchange was presented with a donation for \$100,000 USD at the Richmond, BC Walmart Supercentre grand opening ceremony today.

The grand opening ceremony and cheque presentation took place at Central at Garden City mall, a new development at the corner of Alderbridge Way and Garden City Road in Richmond, BC. The new Richmond North Walmart Supercentre, 9251 Alderbridge Way, officially had its grand opening to the community on Thursday, October 27, with doors opening to the public at 8am PST.

Quest Food Exchange's surplus food recovery and redistribution model offers a viable, dignified solution to food insecurity, while reducing food waste and increasing environmental sustainability, thanks in large part to the support received from industry leaders like Walmart.

Quest's fleet of trucks travel throughout the Lower Mainland five days a week, with the capacity to redistribute between 32-40 pallets of quality surplus food daily via an innovative not-for-profit grocery market model. In 2015 alone, Quest redistributed over \$8.7 million of surplus food to thousands of clients in need, while eliminating over 620,000 pounds of greenhouse gases from entering the earth's atmosphere.

Quest Food Exchange Executive Director Elizabeth Lewis-Crudgington welcomed the funding, which will be used to purchase a new 3-ton reefer truck to increase the amount of surplus food the non-profit organization can collect.

"I am pleased to see this genuine continued commitment to improving food security in our communities. With this incredible support from the Walmart Foundation, Quest is now able to increase its fleet and effectively increase its capacity to recover and redistribute surplus quality food to those in need."

The need for access to healthy and affordable food choices is growing within the Lower Mainland, notes Ms. Lewis-Crudgington.

"This past year we had 240,000 registered client visits to our not-for-profit grocery markets, considerably up from about 216,000 visits from the year previous. Support like this from the Walmart Foundation will help us keep up with the growing need for affordable food access in our communities."

Since 2010, Quest Food Exchange has also had a tremendous working relationship with Walmart Canada. Over the past six years, Walmart Canada has donated over \$445,000 of quality, surplus food collected from its various locations throughout the Lower Mainland.

"We partner with local food banks to not only donate food but to strengthen the charitable meal system with investments that enhance cold chain capability in Canada, which enables fresher food to be recovered" said Kathleen McLaughlin, President of Walmart Foundation. "Food insecurity is a major issue for many around the world, and we applaud the great work of Quest and are proud to be part of their efforts."

About Quest Food Exchange

Quest Food Exchange is a not-for-profit organization that provides dignified access to a variety of affordable and healthy foods to individuals facing food security challenges in British Columbia. Not open to the general public, Quest Food Exchange works in collaboration with food suppliers who donate their surplus food, and social service agency partners who refer their clients. Quest's environmentally conscious food redistribution program includes delivery trucks, a distribution centre, and not-for-profit grocery markets to ensure the quality surplus food recovered is reallocated efficiently to those who in need of assistance. Additional information can be found at questoutreach.org, [facebook.com/Quest Food Exchange](https://facebook.com/QuestFoodExchange), and at twitter.com/QuestExchange.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

For more information or to arrange for interviews, please contact:

Calvin Leitner
Community Relations Coordinator
cleitner@questoutreach.org