Salem Harvest receives a $10,000 donation

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The nonprofit organization Salem Harvest will be able to harvest 60,000 pounds of fresh fruits and vegetables for the community thanks to a $10,000 donation from Northwest Permanente.

Salem Harvest connects farmers and backyard growers with volunteer pickers to harvest fruits and vegetables that would otherwise go to waste. More than half of each harvest is donated to Marion-Polk Food Share and affiliated pantries to benefit in-need and at-risk families. Volunteers take home the rest.

Each year the board of directors for Northwest Permanente gives a donation to a nonprofit serving the region in an area related to healthcare. It focused this year on the Salem area, soliciting nominations from local physicians. Salem Harvest was selected from a field of 12 organizations.

“I nominated Salem Harvest because they are a wonderful, newer and smaller local organization with a great mission,” Dr. Caroline King-Widdall said in a press release. “They glean produce that would otherwise go to waste and share the healthy food with those that need it. They also bring together family and community to volunteer in the outdoors. This is a great organization that we hoped we could help significantly with this donation.”

Salem Harvest touts itself as the largest community harvesting organization in Oregon. Since it was founded in 2010, more than 1 million pounds of locally grown fruits and vegetables have been donated by 2,600 volunteers. clynn@StatesmanJournal.com, 503-399-6710 or follow on Twitter @Capilynn and Facebook @CapilynnSJ.

Salem Harvest volunteers harvest fruits and vegetables that would otherwise go to waste, including butternut squash on a farm west of Stayton.

Green beans picked at a Keizer farm by volunteers with the nonprofit organization Salem Harvest are donated to Marion-Polk Food Share.