



WASHMASKS
YEAR ONE
IMPACT
REPORT

DEAR COMMUNITY,

This mutual aid wouldn't exist without educators, school administrators, artists, or our community partners. This is a letter of gratitude and love to all of you.

WashMasks began with an email.

When Washington State began quarantine lockdown, I reached out to teachers, costume designers and crafters. I knew these educators and artists from my theatre arts work in farmworking communities across our state. I figured that, even though I'm not handy with a needle, I could gather about 50 masks in a week.

But the community responded. Brilliant community leaders and engaged activists like Elia Solis, Roxana Pardo Garcia, Alma Chacón, Sylvia Reyna, and Carlos González provided us guidance on how we could continue showing up for those who feed us. As we connected with farmworking communities in Wenatchee and the Lower Yakima Valley, the work expanded.

From culturally conscious food drives, to school supplies, to art materials, to new books, we built out our mission to include the joyful celebration of creativity and community. "When we saw the books and the Abuelita chocolate, we felt loved," Director of Nuestra Casa of Sunnyside, WA and community partner, Caty Padilla, told us.

You filled our garage to bursting with donations. For the Mabton Feed the Moms Drive, we had so much that we moved the operation to the Langston Hughes Performing Arts Center, where we packed 250 food boxes.

All of this was built on an initial goal of 4,000 masks. As of our last count, we have gathered and distributed over 30,000 masks to farmworkers and other BIPOC rural communities.

It is not surprising to me that our most engaged volunteers are also artists, because artists and farmworkers are connected. Actors, designers, directors, dancers, teaching artists, playwrights, poets, visual artists, sculptors reached out again and again. “Where am I needed? How can I help?” We understand food insecurity, either from personal experience or someone close to us. Artists work multiple jobs and long hours. We understand having to move repeatedly due to the nature of the work, or to find work. Artists understand process over product. The hours of labor, training, and skill that goes into the work we make is unseen in its final presentation. Many try to deny us a decent wage or any pay. The connections between our communities run deep.

Community, we are so grateful for you.

We invite you to celebrate all that we have done—as volunteers, as activists, as artists and remember that the work isn’t over. Art is a practice and so is mutual aid. The pandemic and the impacts of climate change continue to compound obstacles that farmworkers face. The need for mutual aid continues, and WashMasks is committed to this work.

We need each other more, not less.

Gracias, gracias, y mil gracias.

Adelante,



Ana María Fernández Campoy,
Co-Founder and Volunteer Organizer



WashMasks Founders,
Ana María F. Campoy (she/her/ella)
and Jesse Glick (he/him)

MISSION

WashMasks works to provide care, creative joy, and community to Washington farmworkers, their families, and other BIPOC rural communities.

WHO WE ARE

WashMasks is an all-volunteer mutual aid consisting of artists, classroom teachers, public school administrators, and the extended arts community from across Washington state. The communities we work with deserve support, dignity, and advocacy.

WHAT IS MUTUAL AID?

Mutual aid is an act of solidarity among communities and neighbors. Mutual aid work happens when communities work collaboratively in addressing community needs.

WashMasks works with rural community activists, schools, organizations, educators, unions, youth, and farmworkers themselves. WashMasks aims to amplify and support these communities and their leaders.



Right: WashMasks volunteer and Migrant Pantry Team, Sien Mendez, prepares family art kits

Center: Household items and food donations

Left: WashMasks volunteer Luna Garcia distributes food to families at the WashMasks Feed the Moms food distribution event in Mabton, WA.

Community Care

"The early pandemic was a terrifying time and I felt helpless. When I realized I could use my skills (and extra time!) to do something that might make a difference for some of our most marginalized people in the most danger, I was grateful for the opportunity."

*-Joy McCullough-Carranza,
WashMasks volunteer crafter*

32,367

masks to farmworkers and rural BIPOC communities (as of 7/31/2021)

Migrant Food Pantry

Culturally Conscious food considers and prioritizes the community's cultural needs. Food goes beyond eating. Food is family-bonding. Food is a safe-space full of familiar smells. Food is a reminder of heritage, those who have passed, and the future to come. Food is love.

School Supplies

In partnership with Book-It Repertory Theatre's Education Department, WashMasks was able to fill their touring van with more than \$10,000 worth of school and art supplies for the children of farmworkers in the Lower Yakima Valley.

"One word to describe what WashMasks has meant to our community is literally color. Everything was so dark for our families. They brought color. They cared. Someone wasn't just giving us something they thought we needed, they took the time to be intentional. The pantry boxes were full of food that our families actually eat and want. "

*-Caty Padilla,
Director of Nuestra Casa and community partner*

Creative Joy

Book Drive

As part of the Heart of Washington Drive, we collected nearly 500 books for students ages 3-18 in the Skagit and Lower Yakima Valleys.

"We selected these works in an effort to show children themselves as the main character in their own story. We wanted to select inclusive works, from the fantastical to the grounded, written by Black, Indigenous, and Latine authors. We believe that it is vital for children to be exposed to as many different realities and possibilities so they can dream their biggest dreams."

-Anasofia Gallegos,

WashMasks Volunteer and book wishlist curator

Art & Wellness Residency

For the month of May, WashMasks partnered with The Community for the Advancement of Family Education (CAFE) of Wenatchee, WA in providing virtual arts and yoga classes for farmworkers and their households. On Saturday afternoons, farmworking families would log in and participate in art classes- movement, puppetry, creative writing, music, and sculpture- meant for ages 3- 100! Sunday yoga classes focused on providing all caregivers a break and time to focus on themselves.

Creative Care Kits

Middle schoolers from LUCHA! Club in Mount Vernon, WA identified a need for creative outlets to help their peers address mental health challenges that migrant and rural students face. They approached WashMasks in helping secure items for these kits including coloring books, watercolors, journals, and mediation cards. Through gathered and sponsored donations, LUCHA! Club members made two hundred creative self-care kits for middle-and-elementary-school-aged students.

Community & Advocacy

"I felt so energized and motivated by the turnout from our community for Mabton-- the amount of care, love, and collaboration was mind blowing and so, so inspiring!"
-Oly Anders, WashMasks Migrant Pantry Team volunteer

12 administrative volunteers

33 volunteer drivers

39 community partners

Over 30 carloads of food and household supplies across community partners in the Yakima Valley, Skagit Valley, Wenatchee, and the Colville Indian Reservation.

Mil Gracias Campaign

Artists used their creativity and platforms to discuss and amplify farmworker issues and encourage audiences to participate in a drive, send a mask, or buy a book for farmworkers. Creative acts included: DJ Twitch Streams with Hellajoog, Storytime with A. Ham, Trivia with Dacha Theatre, InstaLive Interview with Valorie Curry, and InstaLive performances by singer/songwriter Elana Gilbert and Robbie Arnett of Milo Greene.



Covid-19 Relief Funding

In February 2021, foundry10 approached WashMasks, asking how they can support this mutual aid work through financial assistance. foundry10 provided Covid-19 relief grants to our four main partners (as a mutual aid, we do not accept grants or large monetary donations): Nuestra Casa of Sunnyside, La Venture Middle School and Mount Vernon High School in Mount Vernon, C.A.F.E in Wenatchee, and the Colville Indian Reservation. These funds covered medical debts, rescued homes or cars from foreclosure, provided rent or groceries or personal hygiene kits for farmworkers, and paid off overdue utility bills. The community's public support of this mutual aid led to foundry10's attention and gifting of grants to these communities, providing life-saving relief to nearly 1,000 families across rural Washington. Thank you.

"There are so many entry points. You can sit on your couch and order books and pay with your credit card and never leave the couch. You can drive supplies and be reimbursed for gas. You can update the website. You can make phone calls. You can attend a zoom meeting. It is unlikely that any human would have nothing to add to WashMasks."
-Arlene Martínez-Vázquez, WashMasks volunteer

What's Next?

We hope to continue this work. This doesn't happen without our community. We believe that everyone can contribute and support those who feed us. You can join us for a day event or support ongoing needs. To sign up to volunteer, email us at washmasksmutualaid@gmail.com.

Community Partners

These are organizations and communities whose work we support through our efforts and/or who provide us guidance on how to best support the communities we seek to serve.



These organizations and businesses have supported WashMasks donation drives, advocacy, and other mutual aid efforts.

