

### **Mid-Willamette Valley & North Coast FY2026 Community-Initiated Project Quotes:**

“North Coast Food Web is thrilled and grateful to have the support of Senators Merkley and Wyden in our mission to build a resilient and equitable local food system. Upgrade in our food hub's food storage and small food business incubation infrastructure will allow us to keep more of our food abundance here year round, help restore our local food economy, and significantly increase our ability to respond to extreme events, like climate change and unforeseen natural disasters,” **said Jesse Jones, Executive Director of North Coast Food Web.**

“We are so grateful that Senator Merkley and Senator Wyden care so deeply about the health and safety of children in our community and are supporting this project. The Amani Center provides Forensic Interviews and Medical Assessments for child victims of abuse/crime and provide support and services for their families and caregivers. This new facility will allow us to serve twice as many children, create space to house a much-needed mental health program and create a trauma-informed place where healing can begin. This project was started with the generous gift to the organization of a piece of property from long-time donors Eric and Christine Dahlgren. Eric tragically passed away during the planning phase of the project, but I know he would be incredibly proud today to know that Senator Merkley and Senator Wyden are supporting this project and are helping to ensure that children in our rural county are able to access the care that they need long into the future, by helping us build this permanent home for our center,” **said Amelia Kercher, Amani Center Executive Director.**

“Senator Merkley and Senator Wyden recognize that communities can only thrive when individuals and families have the healthy food they need. This funding will help Marion Polk Food Share acquire a new highly efficient warehouse and production kitchen to serve our community for the next 30+ years,” **said Rick Gaupo, President & CEO, Marion Polk Food Share.**

“This is exciting news and will make such a huge difference in our community for many of our neighbors and residents. We are so thankful to Senator Merkley and Senator Wyden for securing these much-needed funds for our community. These funds will be used to make the critical repairs or modifications needed to keep low and moderate-income families in their homes by replacing leaky roofs, building accessible ramps to the doors, repairing floors with holes in them, etc. Seniors, people with disabilities, and families with young children who own their own home but do not have the necessary resources to make these emergent repairs will now be able to stay in their homes. The city partners with the Yamhill County Affordable Housing Corporation to administer this program. We have over 190 households on a wait list in the City of McMinnville. Since 2014, over 77 homes have been helped thus far with two \$500,000 grants in the past. With these funds we hope to help approximately 75 more households,” **said Mayor Kim Morris, City of McMinnville.**