

## **DRISCOLL'S AWARDS GRANT TO WHOLE KIDS FOUNDATION**

### **Partnership Will Create Five New School Gardens**

WATSONVILLE CA, September 3 -- Driscoll's, a leader in fresh berries, has awarded a \$10,000.00 grant to Whole Kids Foundation as part of its school garden grant program. This grant will support five new edible school gardens which help foster healthy relationships between students and their food. Whole Kids Foundation was founded by Whole Foods Market in 2011 as an independent 501c3 non-profit with the mission of improving children's nutrition by supporting schools and inspiring families.

The decision to work with Whole Foods Market and its Foundation was natural given the core values shared by both companies according to Maria T. Cadenas, Community Involvement Manager, Driscoll's. "We are excited about our school garden partnership as it will foster the knowledge of where our food comes and the people that make it possible – from the farmworker to the farmers."

The Driscoll's Philanthropy Program was formally established in 2005. It is about inspiring and being inspired to create amazing places to live by transferring the same core values that all Driscoll's employees exercise every day in business – be passionate, show humility and be trustworthy. "We are pleased to help build a more inclusive, connected and economically vibrant community," Cadenas added.

Whole Kids Foundation provides resources to schools on ways to work with community partners to build and sustain school gardens for long-term success and has awarded grants to schools that educate children of migrant and farmworker populations. Driscoll's employees through a nomination process will select five grant recipient schools. Driscoll's and Whole Foods Market employees will also be encouraged to volunteer to support the gardens after they are announced.

"We are excited to partner with a company like Driscoll's who has a deep passion for growing nutritious food. Their support of our school garden program will empower thousands of students to develop that same passion and increase their willingness to try and eat fresh fruits and vegetables," says Nona Evans, Whole Kids Foundation Executive Director.

### **About Driscoll's Berries**

Driscoll's is the world's largest distributor of fresh strawberries, blueberries, raspberries and blackberries. It is a fourth-generation, family owned and operated company and uses only natural breeding methods to create plant varieties to produce ONLY THE FINEST BERRIES™. Their mission is to continually delight berry consumers. Driscoll's conventional and organic strawberries, blueberries, raspberries, and blackberries are grown by independent farmers around the globe and are available year round. For more information visit [www.driscolls.com](http://www.driscolls.com).

## **About Whole Kids Foundation**

Whole Kids Foundation, a Whole Foods Market foundation, is based in Austin, Texas, and operates as an independent, nonprofit organization. Its mission is to improve children's nutrition and wellness, with the goal of ending the childhood obesity epidemic. Through partnerships with innovative organizations, schools and educators, the foundation works to provide children access to healthier choices and aims to help children reach their full potential through the strength of a healthy body. To learn more about Whole Kids Foundation and its salad bar, school garden and healthy teacher programs, visit [www.wholekidsfoundation.org](http://www.wholekidsfoundation.org).