



Seattle-Area STOP THE BUG to Host Gratitude Feed for Area Firefighters and First Responders

PPE Response Team teams up with The Herbfarm and Columbia Winery to honor local frontline heroes

WOODINVILLE, WA, May 19, 2020 - *Stop the Bug: Nationwide PPE Response Team* is hosting a "Gratitude Feed" to honor local area first responders from over 20 agencies, including those from Kirkland, Redmond, Woodinville, Seattle, and Bothell. The Herbfarm will be generously providing over 200, boxed, 3-course meals to go. Drinks, mask coverings, and hand sanitizer provided by Caffe Vita, Darigold, Outdoor Research, and Briotech. Honoured Guests: Kirkland Fire, Mayor of Kirkland Penny Sweet, and Mayor of Woodinville Elaine Cook. Social distancing guidelines in place to full effect.

"We are absolutely thrilled that The Herbfarm and our wonderful sponsors like Columbia Winery are coordinating with us to honor these incredible heroes," said Victory Lonnquist, founder of Stop The Bug and organizer of the event.

Kirkland Fire Department was the very first crew to walk into what we didn't know then, but do know now, a Covid-19 emergency response. After responding to the same location, Life Care Center of Kirkland, with one death after another, they started to sense something was very wrong, and began to dress in full personal protective equipment. By that time, it was too late; they had been exposed to the first documented Covid deaths in the United States.

"The first Covid-19 death was here in WA, with Kirkland Fire responding. I can't imagine how incredibly distressing it must have been for those first responders and their families." said Lonnquist. "Through this pandemic we have all experienced so much hardship and tragedy, we felt we ought to end this with something positive, and give gratitude to these brave heroes."

What: Stop the Bug is hosting the "Gratitude Feed" for local first responders.

Where: The Herbfarm Gardens, Woodinville, WA

When: Friday, May 22nd, 3pm

Who: Eastside First Responders (fire, paramedics, police)

Why: To celebrate the heroes that they are.

Stop the Bug is a local nonprofit supplying PPE (personal protective equipment) to first responders, front line workers, and vulnerable communities locally, and nationwide. Stop the Bug was founded by a first responder, and is honored to work with nonprofits locally and around the world.

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***Please note this is a private event, not open to public. Press and media welcomed to attend, with masks, and take pictures and video. Please park off site to provide space for emergency vehicles, and maintain social distancing guidelines. Thank you.**