



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Whole Foods Market to support Grameen America microlending with a 5% Community Giving Day on June 24th, 2009

June 16, 2009, New York, NY – Grameen America, a microfinance organization based in New York, and Whole Foods Market are teaming up for a 5% Community Giving Day to support low-income entrepreneurs in New York City. On Wednesday, June 24th, Whole Foods Market will donate 5% of net sales from all five of its Manhattan stores to Grameen America. All purchases that day, at any Manhattan Whole Foods Market location, will count towards the donation.

Grameen America's average loan to a low-income borrower is approximately \$2,200. With that amount, a woman living at or below the poverty line can start or expand a small business. Whole Foods Market's contribution to Grameen America through 5% Community Giving Day will directly enable small-scale entrepreneurs to invest in themselves and take control of their financial lives.

About Grameen America

Grameen America is a non-profit microfinance organization whose mission is to alleviate poverty through entrepreneurship by offering loans, savings programs, credit establishment, and financial education to the working poor in the United States. Grameen America was co-founded by Muhammad Yunus, who gained recognition worldwide when he and the Grameen Bank, arguably the most well-known microfinance organization in the world, jointly received the 2006 Nobel

Peace Prize for their innovative efforts to alleviate poverty in Bangladesh. Muhammad Yunus made his first loan with \$27 dollars out of his own pocket to 42 Bangladeshi villagers 1976. Today Grameen Bank has nearly eight million borrowers and disburses more than \$100 million each month. Muhammad Yunus now serves as Chairman of the Board of Directors of Grameen America.

About Whole Foods Market

Whole Foods Market started as one small store in Austin, Texas. Today, it is the world's leader in natural and organic foods, with more than 270 stores in North America and the United Kingdom.

Whole Foods Market locations in New York:

Tribeca
270 Greenwich Street
(212) 349 -6555
8:00 AM to 11:00 PM

Columbus Circle
10 Columbus Circle,
(212) 823 -9600
8:00 AM to 11:00 PM

Union Square
4 Union Square South
(212) 673 -5388
8:00 AM to 11:00 PM

Chelsea
250 7th Avenue
(212) 924 -5969
8:00 AM to 11:00 PM

The Bowery
95 East Houston St.
(212) 420 -1320
8:00 AM to 11:00 PM

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