



For Immediate Release
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Farm to Table Goes Global with Vashon Supper Supporting Mobile Innovation for Moms ***Local Philanthropist Offers \$1,000 Match***

Vashon, Washington – What happens when a local farmer and international social entrepreneur cross paths? Farm to table goes global with a home-grown dinner benefitting an international community of mothers, one cell phone at a time.

Karen Biondo didn't set out to be a professional farmer, chef or instructor. While she grew vegetables in her small back yard gardens and catered friends and family affairs, for years her career was as a mortgage broker. Within a week of moving to Vashon someone gave her a small flock of young chickens; a few weeks later she was gifted a baby goat. Now [La Biondo Farm & Kitchen](#) is a full-service farm that grows local produce and meat and offers farm to table food classes.

Now enter Kirsten Gagnaire. Having recently moved back to her native Vashon, Gagnaire is the executive director of [Mobile Alliance for Maternal Action](#), or MAMA, a public/private partnership whose mission is to deliver vital health information to new and expecting mothers living in poverty via the mobile phone. With country programs in Bangladesh, South Africa, India and Nigeria, MAMA has reached more than 2 million women and families with its timed and targeted information, providing just the right message at just the right time of a woman's pregnancy or the developmental stage of her child.

"I have admired Kirsten's work since we met during a six week Social Enterprise workshop she led on Vashon years ago," says Biondo. "When I hear about the women MAMA helps, I feel so incredibly privileged to have what I have. While I can't do Kirsten's work, I can gather thoughtful people around my table, feed them a delicious meal and encourage conversation and support for the women MAMA helps."

Biondo and Gagnaire cooked up a fresh idea to eat local while acting global: a dinner to benefit the work of Mobile Alliance for Maternal Action. In addition to a five course meal including fresh northwest halibut as the main dish, wine and dessert, participants will hear directly from Gagnaire, whose work has taken her from the slums of Mumbai to South Africa's capital, Johannesburg. With a cap at 15 people, this intimate dinner will give attendees the opportunity to learn about MAMA's work first-hand, and see just how the growing proliferation of mobile phones are being leveraged to help the world's most vulnerable women and children.

What: Sunday Supper Benefitting MAMA
When: Sunday, May 17, 2015
Where: LaBiondo Farm & Kitchen
20602 111 Avenue, SW, Vashon
Time: 5:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.
Cost: \$75 per person, paid in advance
RSVP: Karen LaBiondo: labiondo@comcast.net – 15 people maximum, first come first served.



But the story doesn't stop there. Vashon philanthropist Katy Jo Steward has generously pledged to match all donations received that night, up to \$1,000.

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