



Carolinas HealthCare System

For Immediate Release

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600 Volunteers to Repackage 132,000 Pounds of Bulk Food at Sort-A-Rama Event to Help Feed Hungry Children This Summer

(CHARLOTTE, NC) – May 23, 2017 – The Charlotte Convention Center will be filled with 600 volunteers from Food Lion Feeds, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina (Blue Cross NC), TIAA and Carolinas HealthCare System on May 25, 2017 for half a day to help Second Harvest Food Bank of Metrolina (SHFBM) pack 132,000 pounds of bulk food to be used to fight summer hunger. Several tractor trailer loads of bulk foods, purchased by participating sponsors, will be repackaged into family-friendly serving sizes. The 2nd Annual Sort-A-Rama event, which begins at 9:00 a.m. will also provide companies and volunteers with a great team building opportunity that focuses on helping their hungry neighbors.

“At Food Lion, we believe that no one should have to choose between dinner and rent or gasoline and buying groceries,” said Dave Bass, vice president of Food Lion’s Central Charlotte division. “That’s why we’re so passionate about working with partners like Second Harvest Food Bank of Metrolina to end hunger in our local communities through Food Lion Feeds. Events like Sort-A-Rama provide a meaningful way for our associates to directly engage in helping to feed those in our community who need a helping hand, especially during the summer months when childhood hunger rises given schools are closed.”

“Fighting hunger and championing initiatives that support youth in our community are two areas of focus at TIAA. For the second year in a row, we are proud to work with the Second Harvest Food Bank (SHFB) of Metrolina on this critically important event. TIAA Serves will have a significant presence at Sort-A-Rama, working to pack meals and raise awareness on these important issues,” said SHFB Board Member and TIAA Vice President, Human Resources, Jon Dimalanta.

Families turn to SHFBM and partner soup kitchens and emergency food pantries during the summer to fill meal gaps when breakfast and lunch meals at school are no longer available. Partner agencies become flooded with requests from those in need during this time. For food banks like SHFBM, summer is usually a time when both food and financial donations are low. Sort-A-Rama and other late spring and summer food and fund drives help bring awareness to the need during this time. Sort-A-Rama was designed to provide relief to both pantries and families. The event is held in several other cities in North Carolina.



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“Sort-A-Rama is a wonderful event to kick off the ‘School’s Out But Hunger Never Takes a Vacation’ campaign”, says Kay Carter CEO of Second Harvest Food Bank of Metrolina. “In the 19 counties we serve, over half of the children attending school receive free-reduced lunch. This is indicative of how great the need is during the summer and how we need every bit of help we can get to help meet this need.”

North Carolina has one of the highest percentages in the United States of children under the age of 18 at risk of hunger. One in four children in North Carolina are at risk of hunger. In the Charlotte metrolina region there are over 188,000 children at risk of hunger. Along with help from partner nonprofit agencies, SHFBM offers direct service programs to fight child hunger.

“When it comes to keeping communities healthy, our responsibilities do not begin or end at the hospital door,” said Gene Woods, President and CEO, Carolinas HealthCare System. “If someone leaves one of our hospitals, but does not have access to fresh, affordable food, that person cannot truly be healthy. By supporting organizations like Second Harvest, we extend the healing impact of our System.”

“North Carolinians have a long history of coming together to solve problems affecting our state, especially issues affecting children” said Patrick Brady, Director of Major and National Accounts at Blue Cross NC. “Hunger is a particularly heartbreaking problem, because the solution is so simple. The wonderful thing about Sort-A-Rama is how practical it is: bring volunteers together and pack meals for people who need them. Blue Cross NC is proud to do its part in serving our neighbors.”

Individuals and organizations who are interested in helping to stop summer hunger can either go to www.secondharvestmetrolina.org and make a donation or call the Food Bank at 704-376-1785 to find out other ways to get involved.

About Second Harvest Food Bank of Metrolina

As part of Feeding America, Second Harvest Food Bank of Metrolina - serves 19 counties in North and South Carolina. In FY2015-2016, Second Harvest Food Bank of Metrolina distributed over 50 million pounds of food and household items to over 700 hunger feeding agencies including emergency pantries, soup kitchens, senior programs, shelters and low-income daycares.

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