



## For Immediate Release

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### **Second Harvest Food Bank to Expand Summer Feeding Services**

Walmart, Hendrick Automotive & The Assistance League to Help with Funding

**(CHARLOTTE, NC)** – June 20, 2017 – Second Harvest Food Bank of Metrolina (SHFBM) announced today that summer feeding services in and around the Charlotte area will be expanded with the financial assistance of Walmart, Hendrick Automotive Group and The Assistance League of Charlotte. Funds donated will allow SHFBM to feed more children who are at a high risk of missing meals while they are out of school for the summer.

Walmart is providing a gift of \$100,000 to help with several projects. This donation will provide 6,750 backpacks filled with food to children attending summer lunch sites sponsored by Charlotte Mecklenburg Schools from June 12<sup>th</sup> - August 11<sup>th</sup>. Approximately, 750 backpacks will be provided every Friday to insure kids have enough food to eat over the weekend. Schools benefitting from the backpack distribution include: Sterling Elementary, Lake Wylie Elementary, Berryhill Elementary, Tuckaseegee Elementary, Paw Creek Elementary, Newell Elementary, Nathaniel Alexander Elementary, Winding Springs Elementary and Ranson Middle.

The Walmart donation will also be used for summer school-based mobile pantries through Freedom School Partners and at elementary schools in Clover and Fort Mill, South Carolina. Backpacks will be distributed to 10 Freedom School sites for six weeks this summer. These backpacks will assist children from Alexander Graham Elementary, Shamrock Elementary and Enderly Park Elementary.

Hendrick Automotive Group presented SHFBM with a check for \$67,125 to support 17 school-based mobile pantries from June – August. These mobile pantries will benefit the following schools: Berryhill Elementary, Albemarle Road Elementary, Highland Renaissance Academy, J.H. Gunn Elementary and Nathaniel Alexander Elementary. Hendrick is also supporting backpack programs this summer at Devonshire Elementary and J.H. Gunn Elementary.

The Assistance League of Charlotte donated \$18,900 to help provide backpacks to children this summer. These backpacks will be distributed to children attending six Freedom School sites.

“Our Summer Feeding Programs meet a real need in our community”, says Kay Carter, CEO of Second Harvest Food Bank of Metrolina. “We are thankful that Walmart, Hendrick Automotive Group and The Assistance League are helping us expand what we are able to offer children in need in our community this summer. Children should be enjoying their summer break, not worrying about when they will eat again. The food provided will help keep these children healthy and ready to learn when school starts back in August.”

The Second Harvest Backpack Program provides a backpack of nutritious, ready-to-eat foods on

*“Summer Feeding Program Expansion Cont’d”*

the weekends and school breaks when children don’t have access to school meals. The School-Based Mobile Pantry Program provides families at high-poverty elementary schools with a week’s worth of groceries. Groceries include staple pantry items such as oatmeal, rice, low-sodium soups, canned fruits and vegetables, pasta, spaghetti sauce and peanut butter. Also provided is fresh fruits and vegetables, meat, whole grain bread and dairy. Both programs provide financial savings to families struggling to make ends meet.

**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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