

**SECOND
HARVEST
FOOD BANK
OF METROLINA**

News Release

Walmart 

Together We CAN End Hunger

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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4th Annual Santa Express to Provide Gifts to 15,000 High Need Students

Second Harvest Food Bank of Metrolina To Visit 29 Schools in 15 Counties November 30 – December 11, 2018

CHARLOTTE, North Carolina (November 27, 2018) – On **Friday, November 30th**, Second Harvest Food Bank of Metrolina (SHFBM) will kick off their **4th annual Santa Express in partnership with Walmart**. The event will provide holiday gifts of apples/pears to each school along with items like toiletries, socks, school supplies and shoes to **15,000 high need elementary school students** in **29 schools in 15 counties** served by the Food Bank. The location for the kick-off will be **Steele Creek Elementary School** located at 4100 Gallant Lane, Charlotte, NC. 28273. **The kick-off starts at 10:00am on Friday, November 30th**, and will include a few words from our friends at Walmart about Santa Express, unloading by Food Bank team members and distribution of items to classrooms by Walmart volunteers. The media is invited to follow the Santa Express team as they visit with the children and teachers.

The goal of SHFBM's Santa Express is to spread holiday cheer and spirit to children in need. There are over 188,000 children in the Charlotte Metro region who struggle with hunger. Families already struggling to put food on the table don't have extra for gifts for birthdays and holidays. They also often don't have extra money to pay for fresh fruits and vegetables when grocery shopping and often times have to settle for less expensive and less nutritious food options.

Beginning November 30th, SHFBM team members will deliver items to elementary schools in the following counties in North and South Carolina: Mecklenburg, Rowan, Cabarrus, Montgomery, Stanly, Anson, Lancaster (SC), York (SC), Cherokee (SC), Rutherford, Cleveland, Gaston, Burke, Catawba, and Lincoln. A full schedule, including dates and times of deliveries is attached.

Members of the media are invited to join the caravan to each school to film and photograph the distribution. This will make for great holiday stories leading up to Christmas.

With over 527,000 people in our 19 county region living at or below the poverty level, and 188,000 of those being children and 41,000 seniors, the holiday season is the perfect time to share our resources with those less fortunate. **For more information about Santa Express 2018 contact Donna Ragan, SHFBM Marketing & Communications Manager at dragan@secondharvest.org or 704.572.1812.**

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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 FY2017-2018, Second Harvest Food Bank of Metrolina distributed over 54 million pounds of food and household items to more than 700 hunger feeding agencies including emergency pantries, soup kitchens, senior programs, shelters and low-income daycares.