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6th Annual Santa Express to Provide Gifts to 10,000 High Need Students Second Harvest Food Bank of Metrolina To Distribute to 23 Schools in 11 Counties December 2-7

CHARLOTTE, North Carolina (December 2, 2020) – On **Tuesday, December 2nd**, Second Harvest Food Bank of Metrolina kicked off their **6th Annual Santa Express in partnership with Walmart**. The distribution will provide holiday gifts of fruit to each school along with items like toiletries, socks, school supplies and shoes to **10,000 high need elementary school students in 23 schools in 11 counties** served by the Food Bank. This year, COVID-19 caused a change in the format of the event – Walmart team members and Food Bank staff were unable to distribute gifts in person; however they did Santa Express gift drops and school staff distributed the holiday goodies to students.

The goal of SHMETROLINA'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 holidays, and the pandemic has added more worries. 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 December 2nd, Food Bank team members will deliver items to elementary schools in the following counties in North and South Carolina: Mecklenburg, Rowan, Cabarrus, Montgomery, Anson, Lancaster (SC), York (SC), Cherokee (SC), Rutherford, Cleveland, Gaston, Burke, and Lincoln. A full schedule, including dates and times of deliveries is attached.

This will make for great holiday stories leading up to Christmas. **For more information about Santa Express 2020 contact Donna Ragan, Marketing & Communications Manager at dragan@secondharvest.org or 704.805.1724.**

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About Second Harvest Food Bank of Metrolina – As part of Feeding America, Second Harvest Food Bank of Metrolina (SHMETROLINA) serves 24 counties in North and South Carolina. In FY2019-2020, SHMETROLINA distributed over 70 million pounds of food and household items to over 800 non-profit agencies including emergency pantries, soup kitchens, senior programs, shelters, low-income daycares, veteran assistance organizations, and animal rescues. Follow the Food Bank on: [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), [LinkedIn](#), and [YouTube](#).