

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## 7th Annual Santa Express Provides Gifts to Over 10,000 High Need Students Second Harvest Food Bank of Metrolina Distributes to 24 Schools in 11 Counties December 6-14

**CHARLOTTE, North Carolina** (December 7, 2021) – On **Monday, December 6th**, Second Harvest Food Bank of Metrolina kicked off their **7th 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 over 10,000 **high need elementary school students in 24 schools in 11 counties** served by the Food Bank.

The goal of Santa Express is to spread holiday cheer and spirit to children in need. There are over 168,000 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 6th, Food Bank team members will deliver items to elementary schools in the following counties in North and South Carolina: Mecklenburg (NC), Cherokee (SC), York (SC), Montgomery (NC), Rutherford (NC), Cleveland (NC), Gaston (NC), Lincoln (NC), Burke (NC), Anson (NC), and Lancaster (SC). 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 2021 contact Donna Ragan, Marketing & Communications Manager at [dragan@secondharvest.org](mailto: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 FY2010-2021, SHMETROLINA distributed over 82 million pounds of food (including over 48 million pounds of fresh produce, meat, and dairy) 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](#).