



For Immediate Release

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The Duke Endowment Awards \$3.5 Million to Feeding the Carolinas *Grant Aimed at Alleviating Hunger in Wake of COVID-19*

Charlotte, NC, May 20, 2020 – Trustees of The Duke Endowment in Charlotte, N.C., have awarded a \$3.5 million grant to Feeding the Carolinas, a network of 10 food banks serving more than 3,700 charitable agencies in North Carolina and South Carolina. The funding will help food banks respond to increased demand due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

“With food insecurity challenging so many more families and individuals during this crisis, food banks are stretching to provide critical support,” said Duke Endowment Board Chair Minor Shaw. “In this escalating fight against hunger, Feeding the Carolinas is committed to helping people who urgently need it the most across our two states.”

The 10 food banks annually provide food to 2.6 million Carolinians facing hunger, including hundreds of thousands of children and seniors. Each food bank has met stringent guidelines to be associated with the network. Due to the impact of COVID-19, they expect to spend between \$1 million to \$2 million per week on food purchases for the next six to eight weeks, and that continues to grow.

“The impact is being felt in communities large and small,” says Mike Darrow, Executive Director of Feeding the Carolinas. “The crisis is disrupting the lives of nearly everyone in some way, but food-insecure individuals are facing particular challenges, and the number of people who experience food insecurity is expected to grow.”

“Second Harvest Food Bank of Metrolina, serving Mecklenburg County (Charlotte) and 23 surrounding counties in North and South Carolina, is grateful to The Duke Endowment for this generous gift,” says CEO Kay Carter. “The funds will help serve children, seniors and families – the groups most impacted by COVID-19.”

The Duke Endowment is one of the largest private foundations in the Southeast. Its work in North Carolina and South Carolina focuses on four program areas: child and family well-being, health care, higher education and rural United Methodist churches. The foundation shares a name with Duke University and Duke Energy, but they are separate organizations.

The Endowment previously awarded \$2.5 million to address vital health care and social needs related to the coronavirus crisis. With that funding, \$1.25 million is dispersed through the North Carolina Healthcare Foundation, the charitable nonprofit affiliate of the North Carolina Healthcare Association. In South Carolina, the \$1.25 million is being dispersed through One SC Fund, a fund created at Central Carolina Community Foundation in 2015 to respond to natural disasters.

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About Second Harvest Food Bank of Metrolina

As part of Feeding America, Second Harvest Food Bank of Metrolina serves 24 counties in North and South Carolina. In FY2018-2019, Second Harvest Food Bank of Metrolina distributed over 60 million pounds of food and household items to over 800 hunger feeding agencies including emergency pantries, soup kitchens, senior programs, shelters and low-income daycares. Follow the Food Bank on: Facebook:

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