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**Second Harvest Food Bank of Metrolina Receives \$75,000 Grant from the Walmart Foundation to Fund Infrastructure and Equipment Needed for Handling Fresh Food**

CHARLOTTE (SEPTEMBER 7, 2018) – Second Harvest Food Bank of Metrolina today announced a \$75,000 grant from the Walmart Foundation to fund the infrastructure that will ultimately help seven of the food bank’s partner agencies secure and distribute more nutritious food to families in need. The grant will allow these agencies in high-need counties, including Gaston, Rowan, Rutherford, and Union counties to invest in equipment to preserve food quality, such as; refrigerated vehicles, coolers and freezers, thermometers, temperature calibration devices and other items. These agencies include: Cherryville Area Ministries, Dallas Christian Ministries, and Mt. Zion Restoration in Gaston County; Main Street Mission and Salvation Army in Rowan County; Basic Christian Ministries and Salem United Methodist Church in Rutherford County; and Common Heart in Union County.

“Over 527,000 people in our 19 county region live at or below the poverty level, including 188,000 thousand children,” said Kay Carter, Second Harvest Food Bank of Metrolina CEO, “It is important for SHFBM to provide our agency partners with healthy food, and we are thankful to the Walmart Foundation for helping arm us with the equipment we need to ensure that people who struggle with hunger have access to nutrient-rich options.”

SHFBM secures fresh, perishable food across their 19 county service region, which includes a total of 19 counties – 14 counties in North Carolina and 5 counties in South Carolina. Through this generous grant, these seven agencies will be able to store and distribute over 507,000 pounds of food through their outreach programs.

The Walmart Foundation has been instrumental in helping food banks rescue and distribute more perishable food from retailers across the United States in a sustainable, cost-effective way. This grant is a part of Walmart and the Walmart Foundation's ongoing commitment to helping families who struggle with hunger by providing four billion meals to people in need in the U.S. by 2020.

Since 2009, the Walmart Foundation has been a leading supporter of infrastructure grants to Feeding America food banks and their member agencies. Walmart and the Walmart Foundation provide donations of both food and funds to the Feeding America nationwide network of 200 food banks. Since 2004 Walmart has donated over \$1.9 million dollars and over 50 million pounds of food to SHFBM.

With food insecurity remaining high throughout the country, the ability to distribute more food is critical for food banks. According to the USDA, more than 41 million people nationwide are food insecure, which means that they may not know where they will find their next meal. To learn more about what Second Harvest Food Bank of Metrolina is doing to fight hunger, visit [SecondHarvestMetrolina.org](http://SecondHarvestMetrolina.org).

For additional information, please contact Donna Ragan, SHFBM Marketing & Communications Manager at 704.572.1812 or [dragan@secondharvest.org](mailto:dragan@secondharvest.org).

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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 over 700 hunger feeding agencies including emergency pantries, soup kitchens, senior programs, shelters and low-income daycares.

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