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SECOND HARVEST FOOD BANK NEEDS TURKEYS SO FAMILIES CAN ENJOY TRADITIONAL HOLIDAY MEAL

Monetary Donations Will Help to Feed Hungry Neighbors All Year Long

SAN JOSE, Calif., November 12, 2015 – Thanksgiving is just around the corner and for many local families that means a turkey dinner. Second Harvest Food Bank of Santa Clara and San Mateo Counties needs turkeys so the local pantries, soup kitchens, and shelters that depend on Second Harvest for food can provide their clients with a traditional holiday meal. This year's goal is 19,000 turkeys and Second Harvest still needs more than 11,000 turkeys.

Turkeys can be dropped off at Second Harvest Food Bank's Curtner Center in San Jose (750 Curtner Avenue) and Bing Center in San Carlos (1051 Bing Street). The Food Bank has extended its dock hours to make donating easier. Frozen turkeys are best and turkeys should not be placed in the food collection barrels located throughout the community.

"We know that for many families, a turkey dinner is an important tradition," said Kathy Jackson, CEO of Second Harvest Food Bank. "We are depending on the community to help us meet our turkey goal. But we also need monetary donations to help feed our hungry neighbors long after the holidays are over. Nearly a quarter of a million people rely on Second Harvest for food every month, during the holidays and all year long."

On November 16, San Francisco 49er Antoine Bethea will be at Second Harvest's Curtner Center from 4 to 6 p.m. to sign autographs and take photos with anyone dropping off a turkey or a financial donation of at least \$25.

The Food Bank launched its Holiday Food and Fund Drive last month with a goal of raising \$15 million and 2 million pounds of food. This is a critical drive because Second Harvest raises nearly half its annual revenues during the holiday season.

Second Harvest Food Bank partners with nearly 330 nonprofit agencies to provide food at more than 700 sites throughout Santa Clara and San Mateo counties, including pantries, soup kitchens, and shelters. Second Harvest is one of only a few food banks in the nation that does not charge its partners for the food it provides, so it depends on donations from the community.

Last year, the Food Bank distributed more than 62 million pounds of food to the community – that’s the equivalent of more than 1 million meals a week. Last year Second Harvest distributed more than 33 million pounds of fresh produce – more than any other food bank in the United States.

Dock Hours in November

Second Harvest’s Curtner Center dock in San Jose is open from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. during the week; from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Saturday, November 14; from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Saturday, November 21; and from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Sunday, November 22.

Second Harvest’s Bing Center dock in San Carlos is open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. during the week and from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday, November 14, and Saturday, November 21. The week of November 23 through 25, the dock will be open from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

For more information about holiday dock hours or to make a donation, visit www.SHFB.org or call (866) 234-3663. Anyone who needs food should call Second Harvest’s Food Connection hotline at (800) 984-3663.

Second Harvest Food Bank of Santa Clara and San Mateo Counties is the trusted leader dedicated to ending local hunger. Since its inception in 1974, Second Harvest has become one of the largest food banks in the nation, providing food to nearly one quarter of a million people each month. The Food Bank mobilizes individuals, companies and community partners to connect people to the nutritious food they need. More than half the food distributed is fresh produce. In fact, Second Harvest provides more fresh fruits and vegetables than any other food bank in the United States. Second Harvest also plays a leading role in promoting federal nutrition programs and educating families on how to make healthier food choices. Visit www.SHFB.org to get involved.

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