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SECOND HARVEST REACHING OUT TO PUBLIC AFTER FUNDING SHORTFALL

**\$900,000 drop in November donations means less help for
hungry families in Silicon Valley**

SAN JOSE, Calif., December 14, 2016 – Second Harvest Food Bank is turning to the public for support after surprisingly disappointing fund raising results in November. During the month, 2,600 fewer people made donations than the year before. The resulting \$900,000 shortfall could threaten the organization’s ability to feed all those in need this holiday season. To feed all the families now reaching out for help—a larger number than during the Great Recession—Second Harvest is making an appeal for past donors to come back, as well as for first time givers to join the effort to fight local hunger.

“This is an incredibly important time to give to a truly deserving cause,” commented Kathy Jackson, CEO of Second Harvest Food Bank of Santa Clara and San Mateo Counties. “We serve an average of more than 250,000 people every month, and an enormous number of the gifts that support our budget come during this time of year. Along with many who without us would have to choose between paying for groceries or rent, we serve a heartbreaking range of people—from elderly clients with no one to care for them to families struggling with sudden unemployment due to a health crisis. Donations directly impact hungry people in our community and could mean a parent or older sibling doesn’t have to forgo a meal, so a younger child can eat.”

“We know the people in our community have big hearts and care about these struggling families,” Kathy continued. “Unfortunately, hunger in Silicon Valley can be an invisible problem. Amidst all this prosperity it’s hard even for us to believe Second Harvest is serving about one out of every 10 residents in Santa Clara and San Mateo counties. The rising cost of living is a big contributor to the growing lines at pantries and soup kitchens. The community has always supported us when local need is high and we hope they will do so again.”

Individuals, corporations and organizations can help by donating to Second Harvest Food Bank and by encouraging friends, family and others to donate. Every \$150 donation is the equivalent of 300 meals, and will help Second Harvest feed people all year long. For more information about how to

donate or support the campaign, visit SHFB.org or call 866-234-3663. Anyone who needs food should call Second Harvest's multilingual Food Connection hotline at 800-984-3663.

Based in Silicon Valley, Second Harvest Food Bank of Santa Clara and San Mateo Counties is one of the largest food banks in the nation. Currently providing food to more than one quarter of a million people every month, Second Harvest is a trusted community-based organization that was founded in 1974. Despite the immense wealth in Silicon Valley, and partly due to the high cost of living, hunger and malnutrition are pervasive. The Food Bank distributes nutritious food, including more fresh produce than any other food bank in the country, through a network of more than 320 nonprofit partners at more than 850 sites. Second Harvest is pursuing innovative efforts to increase access to food resources as it seeks to feed an additional 100,000 hungry people each month. To reach more people, it connects those in need to federal nutrition programs and other food resources. To learn more about how Second Harvest is building a hunger-free community, visit SHFB.org.

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