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**SECOND HARVEST FOOD BANK LAUNCHES NATION'S LARGEST HOLIDAY
CAMPAIGN AS IT PROVIDES ASSISTANCE TO MORE PEOPLE
THAN EVER BEFORE**

New levels of uncertainty compound the already high levels of need in Silicon Valley where an estimated 1 in 4 people are at risk for hunger

Highlights:

- More people rely on Second Harvest Food Bank than ever before—an average of 260,000 people every month
- Nation's largest food bank holiday campaign set to raise \$17.5 million runs through December
- Every \$10 donated helps provide 20 healthy meals
- At a time when there is so much divisiveness in our country, ending local hunger is something we can all do together
- Individuals, corporations and organizations can help by donating money or food. For more information, visit SHFB.org or call 866-234-3663

SAN JOSE, Calif., November 8, 2018—This holiday season, amidst festive gatherings and traditions often centered around an abundance of food, more Silicon Valley residents are receiving assistance from Second Harvest Food Bank of Santa Clara and San Mateo Counties than ever before – an average of 260,000 every month. To help address this need, Second Harvest launched its annual holiday campaign, the largest in the nation, to raise \$17.5 million to help ensure nutritious food is available to anyone who needs it all year around.

The campaign, which raises over 60 percent of Second Harvest's operating budget for the entire year, kicks-off during a period marked with new levels of uncertainty affecting the Food Bank. For the first time, Second Harvest is going into its most important fundraising campaign of the year with revenue trailing expectations as it faces a more uncertain fundraising environment where issues, including a trend of some major donors giving less to local causes, are having an impact. Proposed threats to federally funded nutrition programs like CalFresh (formerly known as food stamps) also increases the

strain and has Second Harvest and other food banks bracing to provide more food if the proposed changes go through.

Second Harvest CEO Leslie Bacho said the growing need for assistance in Silicon Valley, coupled with changes in the giving environment has created challenges for many local nonprofits including Second Harvest. “Right now, we are living in very uncertain times,” said Bacho. “We have to do more to ensure that people don’t fall through the cracks and to reassure people that we are there for them. Second Harvest is exploring innovative ways to connect more people to nutritious food, but we can’t do it alone. We need the community’s support. At a time when there is so much divisiveness in our country, ending local hunger is something we can all do together.”

Second Harvest estimates that about 700,000 people – or 1 in 4 – are at risk for hunger in Silicon Valley. With the Food Bank providing food for an average of 260,000 people every month, there is a gap of about 440,000 people who aren’t getting assistance but may need it. The booming economy has driven up the cost of housing, while wages have remained relatively flat for those outside the tech sector, making it difficult for many to pay rent and put food on the table.

Second Harvest partners with 309 nonprofit agencies to provide food at more than 985 sites throughout Santa Clara and San Mateo counties – including schools, pantries, soup kitchens, shelters, and senior centers – so that everyone has access to the food they need to thrive right in their own neighborhood. It 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. Last year, Second Harvest provided more than 65 million pounds of food to the community, the equivalent of nearly 55 million meals.

Individuals, corporations and organizations can help to ensure that anyone who needs a healthy meal can get one by donating to Second Harvest Food Bank or by hosting a food and fund drive this holiday season. Every \$10 donated helps provide 20 meals and a monetary donation will help Second Harvest feed hungry people all year long. Second Harvest is also grateful for food donations. If you are donating turkeys or chickens, they should be frozen and brought to one of Second Harvest’s three facilities and not placed in Second Harvest’s food donation barrels that are located at grocery stores, libraries, community centers and other sites throughout the community. Other healthy food items are also appreciated! Please refer to our most-needed foods list under the donate section on SHFB.org.

<https://www.shfb.org/mostneededfoods>

To support the campaign, visit [SHFB.org](https://shfb.org) or call 866-234-3663. Anyone who needs food should call Second Harvest's multilingual Food Connection hotline at 800-984-3663.

About Second Harvest Food Bank

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 an average of 260,000 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 almost any other food bank in the country, through a network of 309 nonprofit partners at 985 sites. Second Harvest is pursuing innovative efforts to increase access to food resources as it seeks to feed more hungry people each month. To reach more people, it advocates for anti-hunger policies and 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](https://shfb.org).

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