



SECOND HARVEST
of SILICON VALLEY

Contact:

Diane Baker Hayward
408-266-8866, ext. 368
dbakerhayward@shfb.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**SECOND HARVEST OF SILICON VALLEY, LIFESTEPS AND CITYTEAM
JOIN FORCES TO LAUNCH FREE FOOD DISTRIBUTIONS AT
AFFORDABLE HOUSING COMPLEXES IN SAN JOSE**

**Link between food insecurity and housing in Silicon Valley
drives collaborative effort to make nutritious groceries more accessible
by providing them directly to residents where they live**

SAN JOSE, Calif., August 27, 2019 – As food insecurity in Silicon Valley becomes inextricably linked to the region’s high cost of housing, Second Harvest of Silicon Valley, CityTeam and LifeSTEPS are launching a collaborative new effort to distribute free groceries directly to residents at the affordable housing complexes where they live. By offering residents the food at no cost and by eliminating other barriers that keep people from accessing nutritious food, such as transportation and childcare, the organizations hope that more neighbors will stay healthy and housed and continue to work and thrive in Silicon Valley.

Long-time partners focused on ending hunger in the community, [LifeSTEPS](#), [CityTeam](#) and Second Harvest have shared a vision of addressing hunger at affordable housing complexes. The realization that no one organization could tackle the need on their own inspired the nonprofits to draw on their core competencies and collaborate. Under the agreement, LifeSTEPS will provide distribution locations at its affordable housing complexes. CityTeam will manage the volunteers and logistics of the distributions and Second Harvest will provide fresh produce, meat, dairy, grains, and nonperishable food at no cost. Second Harvest has also provided over \$175,000 in infrastructure upgrades to date including walk-in freezers and coolers, a refrigerated truck to transport food to the sites as well as sheds, tables, shelving and other items. Additional support was provided by HealthTrust to initiate the program.

“We think that providing food to families and seniors who are having to choose between buying nutritious groceries and paying for their rent is a way we can help address the budget gap many are experiencing,” said Leslie Bacho, CEO of Second Harvest. “Our partnership with CityTeam and LifeSTEPS on this initiative not only helps us to reach more people where they live, but it also allows us to sustain this effort over time and provide some stability in the lives of so many families and individuals. This is one of the ways Second Harvest is stepping outside of traditional food banking to meet the increasing need we are seeing here in the Valley.”

The distributions are one of the ways CityTeam has been responding to the increased need in the community. “CityTeam is proud to be part of this partnership to bring food into communities where the need is so great,” said Glen Peterson, President of CityTeam. “In the past year, CityTeam has more than doubled our food distribution to meet the growing need in the San Jose area, and this partnership with Second Harvest and LifeSTEPS is a key part of making that happen. Our role in the partnership is to mobilize our large network of volunteers and our distribution capabilities to literally be the arms and legs that get food out into these communities where people live.”

Second Harvest currently provides varying levels of assistance at 87 affordable housing and mobile home parks in Santa Clara and San Mateo counties. The four new collaborative grocery distributions opened this summer at LifeStep’s Blossom River, Willows, Poco Way and Rivertown housing complexes in San Jose. The twice monthly distributions offer residents a full selection of fresh produce, meats and dairy products as well as whole grains and other nonperishable items.

About Second Harvest

Founded in 1974, Second Harvest of Silicon Valley is a trusted leader in ending local hunger and is one of the largest food banks in the nation. The organization distributes healthy groceries through a network of 310 partners at 1,000 sites in Santa Clara and San Mateo counties. Due to the prohibitively expensive cost of living in Silicon Valley, hunger is at an all-time high as more and more families are forced to sacrifice nutritious food for housing. Second Harvest is helping to keep people healthy and housed by providing enough nutritious food for more than 58 million meals a year — half of which is fresh produce. Second Harvest also connects people to federal nutrition programs and other food resources, and advocates for anti-hunger policies on the local, state and national levels. To learn more about how Second Harvest is building a hunger-free community, visit shfb.org.

About LifeSTEPS

Since 1996, LifeSTEPS has been deeply committed to eradicating the barriers of poverty through innovative programs and services. LifeSTEPS is proud to be celebrating 23 years of community service providing meaningful programs that empower people to move forward in their lives. LifeSTEPS provides on-site case management services to low-income residents in affordable housing communities throughout California, currently serving approximately 90,000 people. The core case management portfolio includes focus areas in financial literacy, housing stabilization and emergency client assistance, facilitating food distributions, employment training, health & wellness curriculum, aging in place curriculum, and after school and summer reading curriculum. For more information on LifeSTEPS and how to get involved, please visit www.LifeSTEPSusa.org.

About CityTeam

CityTeam is a Christian nonprofit, compassionately serving our neighbors experiencing poverty, hunger, homelessness, and addiction. Our programs operate in five cities across the United States, including San Jose, San Francisco, Oakland, Portland, and Chester. Founded in 1957,

today, with the help of a community of 35,000 staff, volunteers and supporters, CityTeam is impacting the lives of over 500,000 people each year.

CityTeam in the Neighborhood is our community outreach program, bringing food and other essential resources into neighborhoods where poverty and food insecurity are prevalent. Through our partnerships and distribution network, we provide nearly 1.5 million pounds of food to individuals and families in Santa Clara County annually. To learn more about CityTeam, visit CityTeam.org