



## **MEDIA ALERT**

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## **Second Harvest Distributes BackPacks to Students in Summer Program**

**Warren, PA., July 31, 2019** – For the first time, Second Harvest was able to provide summer BackPacks to students by partnering with the 21st Century Program. For four weeks of the six-week program, Second Harvest was able to provide more than 250 BackPacks to qualifying students. Second Harvest distributed the last 40 BackPacks to kindergarteners and first graders on Wednesday, July 31<sup>st</sup>.

During the school year, the Warren School District operates five centers across the county serving students in second grade through eighth grade. In the summer, those students can sign up for summer activities at Beaty Warren Middle School, located in downtown Warren. This summer, the district received a Cohort 10 award that has allowed the district to expand services to students in grades K-1. Students in the program receive a breakfast and lunch provided by the Summer Food Service Program, funded by the US Department of Agriculture and administered by the Pennsylvania Department of Education.

For many students, lunch provided by the summer program on Friday is the last meal they will receive until they return for breakfast at the program on Monday. More than 4,600 individuals are food insecure within Warren County. An unfortunate reality is that nearly 32% of those individuals are children under the age of 18. The Backpack Program addresses the problem of child hunger by providing children in poverty with nutritious, child-friendly food necessary for overall growth, physical and cognitive development and satisfactory performance in school. Second Harvest operates 39 Backpack sites in 8 counties and 11 school districts. During the 2018-19 academic year, Second Harvest distributed nearly 80,000 weekend backpacks of food.

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### **About the 21st Century Program**

The Warren County School District is currently administering multiple cohorts of federal 21st Century Community Learning Centers funding to offer community learning centers that provide academic, artistic and cultural enrichment opportunities for students and their families during non-school hours and the summer. Programming is designed to help students attending high-poverty and low-performing schools to meet state and local standards in core academic subjects while offering students a broad array of activities that can complement their regular academic programs. The program also offers literacy and other educational services to the families of the students who participate.

### **About Second Harvest Food Bank of Northwest Pennsylvania**

The mission of the Second Harvest Food Bank of Northwest Pennsylvania is to provide food to those in need within 11 counties of northwest Pennsylvania while creating awareness and educating the community on the realities of hunger. Last year, Second Harvest distributed 9.6 million meals to 412 member agencies and distribution partners. Second Harvest serves the following 11 counties in northwest Pennsylvania: Cameron, Clarion, Clearfield, Crawford, Elk, Erie, Forest, Jefferson, McKean, Venango and Warren. For more information, visit [www.nwpafoodbank.org](http://www.nwpafoodbank.org).