



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Local Grocery Stores Collect for the Hungry at the Register During the Check Out Hunger Campaign**

**ERIE, Pa., February 5** --- Erie, PA – The Second Harvest Food Bank of Northwest Pennsylvania will receive the donations being collected from customers this month during the Check Out Hunger fundraiser. As largest fundraiser of the year for Second Harvest, Check Out Hunger is being carried out at checkout counters of local grocers including Wegmans, Tops Friendly Markets and Shur-Fine stores. Store employees are asking for donations at checkout and scanning a coupon to add a specific dollar amount (\$1-\$5) to customers' orders.

“For us, the Check Out Hunger campaign is very near and dear to our hearts,” said Chelsea Coverdale, front end manager at Wegmans Peach Street. “Giving back to our community is something that is a focus for Wegmans, and will always remain a priority for us. Being in the food industry, we understand the global issue of hunger and how it impacts us on a community level here in Erie County. We understand that 83% of Second Harvest client households subsist on annual incomes of less than \$20,000 per year. We are fully prepared to help those individuals and families by engaging our employees and our customers in the Check Out Hunger campaign.”

“We are so thankful for the generosity that is shown during Check Out Hunger,” said Karen Seggi, executive director of Second Harvest. “We couldn't complete our mission without the remarkable support of the stores involved with Check Out Hunger. I would like to sincerely thank Wegmans, Tops Markets and participating Shur-Fine stores, their staffs and their customers for making a difference in the lives of people who do not have enough to eat.”

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### ***About the 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 nearly 13 million pounds of food to 298 member agencies and 144 distribution sites for the Commodity Supplemental Food Program for low-income seniors.

Second Harvest serves 167,700 individuals in the following 11 counties in northwest Pennsylvania: Cameron, Clarion, Clearfield, Crawford, Elk, Erie, Forest, Jefferson, McKean, Venango and Warren.