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## Second Harvest Receives 10<sup>th</sup> Consecutive 4-Star Rating Ranked in Top 1% of All Nonprofits Nationwide

**ERIE, Pa., March 16, 2017** --- Erie, PA – The Second Harvest Food Bank of Northwest Pennsylvania has been named one of America’s best managed nonprofit organizations for the tenth consecutive time, according to Charity Navigator, America’s premier charity evaluator. Charity Navigator President and CEO Michael Thatcher recently awarded Second Harvest the coveted 4-star rating indicating that Second Harvest consistently outperforms most other charities in America. Only 1% of the charities that are rated have received at least ten consecutive 4-star evaluations.

In his letter announcing this rating, Thatcher states, “This ‘exceptional’ designation from Charity Navigator sets Second Harvest Food Bank of Northwest Pennsylvania apart from its peers and demonstrates to the public its trustworthiness.”

Karen Seggi, executive director of Second Harvest, expressed appreciation for the award, saying: “We are honored, once again, to be recognized by Charity Navigator. This designation is representative of our efforts at Second Harvest to ensure that every donation is efficiently put toward our mission of feeding those in need.”

Second Harvest Food Bank of Northwest Pennsylvania scored 95.78 on Charity Navigator’s rating system. The rating system examines two broad areas of a charity’s performance; their financial health and their accountability & transparency. The ratings show donors how efficiently Charity Navigator believes a charity will use their support today, how well it has sustained its programs and services over time and their level of commitment to good governance, best practices and openness with information. Charity Navigator provides these ratings so that charitable givers/social investors can make intelligent giving decisions and so that the nonprofit sector can improve its performance.

About Charity Navigator:

Last year, Charity Navigator had more than seven million visits by donors who used the site that has received praise from *TIME Magazine*, *Forbes*, *Reader's Digest*, *PC World*,

*BusinessWeek*, and *Kiplinger's Financial Magazine*. Leaders provided expert analysis and commentary on the charitable sector for *The Factor with Bill O'Reilly*, most CNN programs, and each of the network morning shows--NBC's *The Today Show*, ABC's *Good Morning America*, and CBS's *The Early Show*. Charity Navigator also appeared on *FOX News*, *Fox Business News*, *CNBC*, *NBC Nightly News with Brian Williams*, *The Newshour with Jim Lehrer*, *Nightline*, and Comedy Central's *The Daily Show*, among others, and served as contributors to *National Public Radio* programs *Morning Edition* and *All Things Considered*. The organization has been profiled in *Fast Company magazine*, *Contribute*, *CFO Magazine*, and *The Washington Post*, and quoted in nearly every major American newspaper or weekly magazine. Charity Navigator has published editorials and articles on charity accountability, the role of government regulation in the charitable sector, fund-raising ethics, and non-profit leadership in such newspapers as *The Atlanta-Journal Constitution*, *The Chronicle of Philanthropy*, *The Seattle Post-Intelligencer*, and *The Los Angeles Times*. Charity Navigator's team of professional analysts have examined tens of thousands of non-profit financial documents and developed an unbiased, objective, numbers-based rating system to assess more than 8,000 of America's best-known and some lesser known, but worthy, charities.

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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 297 member agencies, 140 distribution sites for the Commodity Supplemental Food Program for low-income seniors. Second

Harvest serves the following 11 counties in northwest Pennsylvania:

Cameron, Clarion, Clearfield, Crawford, Elk, Erie, Forest, Jefferson, McKean, Venango and Warren.