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**Contact: Zachary Webb**  
Development Manager  
P: 814-459-3663 x 114  
[zwebb@NWPAfoodbank.org](mailto:zwebb@NWPAfoodbank.org)

## Second Harvest Receives 11<sup>th</sup> Consecutive 4-Star Rating Ranked in Top 1% of All Nonprofits Nationwide

**ERIE, Pa., May 25, 2018** --- Erie, PA – The Second Harvest Food Bank of Northwest Pennsylvania has been named one of America’s best managed nonprofit organizations for the eleventh consecutive time, according to Charity Navigator, America’s premier charity evaluator. Only 1% of the charities that are rated have received at least eleven consecutive 4-star evaluations.

In his letter announcing this rating, Charity Navigator President and CEO Michael Thatcher states, “attaining a 4-star rating verifies Second Harvest exceeds industry standards and outperforms most charities in your area of work. This is our highest possible rating and indicates that your organization adheres to sector best practices and executes its mission in a financially efficient way.”

“This 4-star rating puts Second Harvest in a very select group of high-performing charities,” says Karen Seggi, Executive Director of Second Harvest. “Second Harvest supporters should feel confident that their contributions are being used efficiently and responsibly to provide for those in need of food in northwest Pennsylvania.”

Second Harvest Food Bank of Northwest Pennsylvania scored 92.92 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 and how well it has sustained its programs and services over time. The rating also demonstrates to donors a nonprofit’s level of commitment to good governance, best practices and openness with information. Charity Navigator provides these ratings so that charitable givers can make intelligent giving decisions and so that the nonprofit sector can improve its performance.

Every dollar donated can provide five meals to families in need through Second Harvest’s network of member agencies. A full 97% of every dollar donated to Second Harvest goes directly toward feeding programs.

## About Charity Navigator:

Last year, Charity Navigator had more than eleven million visits by donors who used the site that has received praise from *The New York Times*, *Forbes*, *USA Today*, *NPR*, *CNN* and *Fox Business*. 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***

Second Harvest is the largest nonprofit food distribution organization in northwest Pennsylvania. Second Harvest solicits, inventories, and distributes donated grocery products to 453 partner organizations that directly serve people facing hard times in 11 counties. The recipients include unemployed and underemployed workers, older citizens, people with disabilities, families caught in crisis situations and children.

Second Harvest is the single most important source of food for our member agencies, which include food pantries, soup kitchens, shelters and other non-profit organizations. In addition to providing food to member agencies, Second Harvest's programs include School Pantry Programs, BackPack Programs, the Produce Express Program, Military Share – a Produce Express Program, and the Senior Box Program.

Currently, the food Second Harvest provides to partner organizations (more than 12 million pounds during fiscal year 2016-17) reaches 167,700 individuals each year. Second Harvest serves the following counties:  
Cameron | Clarion | Clearfield | Crawford | Elk | Erie | Forest | Jefferson | McKean | Warren | Venango