



MEDIA RELEASE

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Second Harvest Starts BackPack Program to Benefit Woodland Elementary Students

Emporium, Pa., January 13 – Students in Emporium will have additional resources to help tide them over their weekends, as the Second Harvest Food Bank of Northwest Pennsylvania has announced an expansion of the BackPack program to Woodland Elementary School. The first distribution will occur this Friday, January 17th, and provide backpacks of food for up to 50 students each week through the end of the 2019-20 academic year.

The BackPack Program provides children in poverty with nutritious, child-friendly food necessary for overall growth, physical and cognitive development when other resources, such as school lunches and after-school meals or snacks, are not available. Eligible students who sign up for the BackPack Program will receive enough food for multiple breakfasts, lunches, dinners and snacks.

Media Information

What: Photo opportunity - BackPacks will be delivered to Woodland Elementary
Where: 601 Woodland Ave., Emporium PA 15834
When: Wednesday, January 16th, between 8a-12p

“We know that one out of every eight individuals in Cameron County is considered food insecure, and that number increases to one out of every five for those under the age of 18,” says Karen Seggi, CEO of Second Harvest. “At Woodland Elementary, 61% of the student body qualify for the Free and Reduced Lunch program. These children rely on school resources such as free or reduced-priced school breakfast and lunch to meet their hunger needs, and they face unique challenges when they are sent home for the weekend. The BackPack Program aims to alleviate the stress of wondering where their next meal will come from.”

Initial funding for the Second Harvest BackPack program at Woodland Elementary has been provided through a generous gift from the Emporium Foundation. Second Harvest operates 42 BackPack sites across 13 school districts within 8 counties of northwest Pennsylvania. Each week, 2,435 children receive BackPacks across the service area. In total, Second Harvest anticipates distributing nearly 80,000 backpacks during the 2019-20 academic year.

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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 9.6 million meals through an anti-hunger network of 399 partner organizations. Second Harvest serves the following 11 counties in northwest Pennsylvania: Cameron, Clarion, Clearfield, Crawford, Elk, Erie, Forest, Jefferson, McKean, Venango and Warren.