



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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## **Second Harvest Prepares Childhood Feeding Programs To Provide Meals To Students For 2020-2021 School Year**

**Erie, Pa., August 3rd** – Students facing hunger across Northwest Pennsylvania will have additional resources to help feed them when they are not in school with help from the Second Harvest Food Bank of Northwest Pennsylvania’s Backpack and School Pantry programs. According to the most recent data provided by Feeding America, over 26,000 children are considered food insecure across Second Harvest’s 11 county service area. There are 42 schools who currently participate in Second Harvest’s Backpack program, with plans to add additional schools for the 2020/2021 school year to meet the increased need due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

“We know that one out of every eight individuals in northwest Pennsylvania 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. “There has been so much worry and uncertainty placed on parents and students throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. Second Harvest remains constant in its efforts to provide food to our neighbors in need and alleviate some concerns.”

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.

The Second Harvest School Pantry Program provides nutritious food and other necessities to children and their families in convenient, familiar and safe locations. School Pantries are located in 16 schools across Second Harvest’s 11-county service area. Each of the school pantries has a set distribution schedule and offer ongoing food assistance services. Each school operates with slight variations that allow the site to match their available resources to the community’s need.

### **Media Information**

What: Erie Gives Day

Where: [www.eriegives.org/organizations/second-harvest-food-bank-of-northwest-pennsylvania](http://www.eriegives.org/organizations/second-harvest-food-bank-of-northwest-pennsylvania)

When: Tuesday, August 11<sup>th</sup>, between 8a-8p

Second Harvest is participating in the 2020 Erie Gives fundraising event. On Tuesday August 11<sup>th</sup>, 2020 donations made to Second Harvest through Erie Gives will be matched by the Erie Community

Foundation and its sponsors. To make a donation to Second Harvest on Erie Gives Day, visit the Second Harvest website, [nwpafoodbank.org](http://nwpafoodbank.org).

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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.