



## MEDIA RELEASE

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## **Second Harvest Starts New Backpack Programs to Benefit Elementary Students at Three Harborcreek Schools**

**Harborcreek, Pa., November 3, 2020** – Students in one Erie County school district 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 three Harborcreek Elementary Schools: Clark Elementary, Rolling Ridge Elementary and Klein Elementary. The first distributions will occur this Friday, November 6<sup>th</sup>, and provide backpacks of food for up to 120 students each week through the end of the 2020-21 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 – Program Stakeholders  
**Who:** Principals representing each of the Harborcreek Elementary Schools; Linda McGarvey, Partner Coordinator at South Harborcreek United Methodist Church; Michelle Schrimper, School Programs Coordinator, Second Harvest;  
**Where:** South Harborcreek United Methodist Church  
7929 McGill Road, Harborcreek, PA 16421  
**When:** Wednesday, November 4<sup>th</sup> at 12 p.m.; Packing to begin at 12:30 p.m.

“An unfortunate reality is that four out of ten students in the Harborcreek Elementary Schools qualify for the Free and Reduced Lunch program,” says Karen S. Seggi, CEO at Second Harvest. “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 programs in Harborcreek has been provided through a generous gift from Sheetz. Additional funding has been pledged or secured from a variety of sources including Nostrovia Brewing, First Presbyterian Church of Harborcreek, the NWPA Lutheran Synod, Faith Lutheran, South Harborcreek United Methodist Church and Our Lady of Mercy.

Second Harvest operates 51 Backpack sites across 13 school districts within 10 counties of northwest Pennsylvania. In the most recent year, more than 2,400 children received Backpacks across the service area. In total, Second Harvest distributed 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 10.4 million meals through an anti-hunger network of 395 partner organizations. Second Harvest serves the following 11 counties in northwest Pennsylvania: Cameron, Clarion, Clearfield, Crawford, Elk, Erie, Forest, Jefferson, McKean, Venango and Warren.