



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

**Contact: Zachary Webb**

Second Harvest Food Bank

P: 814-459-3663 x 114

[zwebb@NWPFoodbank.org](mailto:zwebb@NWPFoodbank.org)

### **Second Harvest Hosting Additional Food Distribution in Response to New COVID-19 Restrictions**

**Erie, Pa., December 15, 2020** – The Second Harvest Food Bank of Northwest Pennsylvania continues to serve many families that are facing hunger for their first time during the COVID-19 pandemic. It is anticipated that the three-week closure of a wide range of Pennsylvania businesses – including restaurants, bars, fitness centers and more – will cause more hardship for newly unemployed individuals. Second Harvest is hosting an additional Produce Express distribution on Saturday at 10 a.m. at its warehouse in response to this expected increase in need.

Participation in the Produce Express is free for those who income-qualify. By making fresh, healthy produce available to those who normally would not have access to it, Second Harvest encourages the community to eat healthier and make better nutritional choices. The Produce Express distribution will also include other grocery items and non-food essentials.

“No one should be hungry,” says Karen S. Seggi, Second Harvest CEO. “We are serving individuals, children and seniors who may have never needed food before or participated in a food distribution. We hope to provide some stability for these families heading into the holiday season.”

Pre-registration for the December 19th distribution is required by 4 p.m. Thursday, December 17<sup>th</sup>. Please call 814-459-3663 x 117 and leave a message and phone number to register for the distribution.

#### **Media Information**

**What:** Second Harvest Produce Express Distribution  
**Where:** Second Harvest warehouse, 1507 Grimm Drive, Erie, PA 16501  
**When:** Saturday, December 19<sup>th</sup>, 10 a.m.

Extra safety measures are being taken by Second Harvest to ensure the health and protection of those involved. These include:

- No more than one household per vehicle will be served.
- Staff and volunteers will only load food items into the trunk of the vehicle during the distribution, and not inside the vehicle. Clients need to keep the trunks of their vehicles empty and clean.
- Food will be distributed in a no-touch, drive-thru format.
- For safety reasons, Second Harvest strongly encourages as few people inside the client’s vehicle as possible.

- Everyone inside the vehicle must wear a mask or face covering during the duration of the distribution. If anyone inside the vehicle is not wearing a mask or face covering, they must pull their vehicle over to a designated area and load the food items into their vehicle.

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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 over 10 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.