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## **Second Harvest Food Bank Expands its Summer Child Feeding Initiative**

**June 18, 2024** – Throughout northwest Pennsylvania, children are getting out of school for summer vacation. During summer vacation, children experiencing food insecurity do not have the same access to nutritious food that they receive from school breakfasts and lunches. This summer, Second Harvest Food Bank of Northwest Pennsylvania aims to feed 3,000 additional students through its Summer Child Feeding Initiative. This program now serves students from 28 schools across five counties. As compared to last summer, this is an increase of 13 schools and two new counties.

According to the most recent Feeding America Map the Meal Gap Study, nearly 20% of children in northwest Pennsylvania experience food insecurity. During the school year, Second Harvest Food Bank of Northwest Pennsylvania provides food to these children through its School Pantries and Backpack Programs. It currently serves 46 schools with the Backpack Program and 27 schools with School Pantries.

Second Harvest Food Bank will continue providing nutritious food to kids facing hunger all summer long. Its Summer Child Feeding Initiative includes school pantries that will stay open during the summer for families to visit and summer backpacks that will be distributed through partner schools and community organizations.

“Summer vacation should be a fun time for children in our area,” said Karen S. Seggi, Chief Executive Officer of Second Harvest Food Bank. “They shouldn’t have to ever worry about not having enough to eat. This year, we will continue to provide food over the summer so that children have the nourishment they need, but we need your help.”

Feeding more children means that Second Harvest needs more support than ever. Second Harvest is calling on the community to help ensure that children experiencing hunger continue to have access to nutritious food during the summer months. Those who are interested in supporting the Summer Child Feeding Initiative, please donate online at [nwpafoodbank.org](http://nwpafoodbank.org).

If you are in need of food, please contact the Food Helpline at (814) 459-3663 ext. 117.

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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 11.5 million pounds of food through an anti-hunger network of 376 partner organizations. Second Harvest serves the following 11 counties in northwest Pennsylvania: Cameron, Clarion, Clearfield, Crawford, Elk, Erie, Forest, Jefferson, McKean, Venango and Warren.