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## **WiNS Project Nutrition Program Transitions to Second Harvest Food Bank BackPack Program**

**May 30, 2024** – In cooperation with the WiNS Project, Second Harvest Food Bank of Northwest Pennsylvania transitions five elementary schools in Crawford County into its BackPack Program.

Second Harvest Food Bank's BackPack Program currently serves 46 schools in northwest Pennsylvania and roughly 3,100 students per week. The program discreetly places kid-friendly, nutritious foods in participating children's backpacks on Fridays to ensure that they have what they need over the weekend and during school breaks. The addition of Cochran Elementary, First District Elementary, Neason Hill Elementary, Second District Elementary, and West End Elementary will be the first schools in Crawford County to participate in Second Harvest's BackPack program.

"We are grateful for the WiNS Project's dedication to feeding children in need in Crawford County for close to ten years. We look forward to working with WiNS to continue their commitment of providing children proper nutrition with our BackPack Program," Karen S. Seggi, CEO of Second Harvest Food Bank of Northwest Pennsylvania, said.

As of April 2024, Second Harvest Food Bank will be responsible for providing food from October through May to the food insecure children of Crawford County. Volunteers from the WiNS Project will continue to pack the bags and deliver them to the schools each week. The cooperative effort will continue to provide nutritious meals to the roughly 485 students who currently receive food.

"The WiNS Project is delighted to be partnering with the Second Harvest Food Bank of Northwest Pennsylvania. With the food bank taking on our child feeding program, our search for a reliable, affordable source of food for our weekly bags is over. The partnership works very well. Second Harvest has the food, and WiNS has the volunteers to get it distributed. I hope that those who have financially supported WiNS in the past, will continue to do so through Second Harvest," Suzie Malone, President of the WiNS Project, said. "Together we can make sure that the children in our community have the healthy foods that they need to thrive and succeed."

“We are thrilled that the Second Harvest Food Bank of Northwest Pennsylvania will provide food for our students over the weekends throughout the school year. We know many families face challenges in providing enough food for their children. The program helps reduce hunger so our students can return to school ready to learn and succeed. We are thankful for their support,” explained Dr. Kelli A. Trenga, Principal of Second District Elementary School.

Second Harvest is grateful to be in collaboration with the WiNS Project to continue to provide food for children experiencing hunger. Please consider supporting Second Harvest’s Backpack Program to ensure children in Crawford County have the nutritious items they need to thrive.

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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.