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Farm to Food Shelf Program Connects Hungry Minnesotans with Fresh, Farm-Grown Food

Second Harvest Heartland and its Feeding America food bank partners will collect and distribute more fresh food to hungry Minnesotans across the state

SAINT PAUL, Minn. (May 31, 2017)—Last night, Governor Dayton signed into law enabling legislation that will provide the Farm to Food Shelf program – a collaboration between Second Harvest Heartland, its Feeding America food bank partners and Minnesota farmers – with \$1.1 million for the next two years. The program helps offset Minnesota growers’ costs to harvest and package donated fruits and vegetables that would otherwise go unharvested or be discarded.

Once fresh produce is collected from Minnesota growers, Second Harvest Heartland works with agency partners and Minnesota’s other five Feeding America food banks to quickly and efficiently distribute the donated produce. The Farm to Food Shelf program ensures hungry seniors, children and working families across the state have access to fresh, nutritious and locally grown food.

As one of the nation’s largest, most efficient and innovative hunger relief organizations, Second Harvest Heartland succeeds in large due part to its community partnerships. Together, these relationships create a sustainable system that provides food access to more people, helping our hungry neighbors find their next meal so they can thrive at work, in the classroom and in their communities.

“We’re continually humbled by the way our community rallies together to fight hunger in the heartland,” said Rob Zeaske, CEO of Second Harvest Heartland. “The Farm to Food Shelf program is a testament to Minnesota’s elected officials, its generous farmers, food shelves and Second Harvest Heartland joining forces to maximize resources and provide the most fresh, nutritious food to our hungry neighbors. We’re deeply grateful to everyone who makes this program possible.”

On any given day, one in 10 Minnesotans does not know when or where they will get their next meal. As Second Harvest Heartland works together with community partners to develop new and more efficient ways of sourcing and distribution, the food it provides is increasingly fresh – and the Farm to Food Shelf program is enhancing the effort.

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About Second Harvest Heartland

Second Harvest Heartland is one of the nation’s largest, most efficient and most innovative hunger relief organizations. Second Harvest Heartland provides an average of 75 percent of all food distributed by its food shelf partners, and in 2016, provided more than 80 million meals to nearly 1,000 food shelves, pantries and other partner programs serving 59 counties in Minnesota and western Wisconsin. Second Harvest Heartland leads through innovation, finding efficient, effective solutions to connect the full resources of our community with our hungry neighbors. For more information, visit 2harvest.org or call 651.484.5117.



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