



Media contacts:

Briana Gruenewald, 612-255-1108, briana@bellmontpartners.com

Elizabeth Cooper, 651-209-7913, ecooper@2harvest.org

****MEDIA ADVISORY****

**Second Harvest Heartland and Child Hunger Coalition Host Press Conference
to Introduce Breakfast After the Bell Bill**

Proposed legislation would help the one in eight Minnesota children who experience hunger on any given day

What: A press conference to introduce the Breakfast After the Bell initiative – proposed legislation (HF 1037, SF 1427) by Second Harvest Heartland and a child hunger coalition comprised of community partners. The bill supports the healthy growth of Minnesota kids and a healthy, prosperous future for our state. Nationwide studies show that eating breakfast at school has a positive effect on test scores, grades, school attendance and tardiness rates. Reducing barriers to school breakfasts is an important way of fostering healthy cognitive and physical development for Minnesota students. The proposed legislation makes it easier for kids to get breakfast at school so they can learn and develop healthy brains and bodies. Incentives like meal reimbursements for school districts – to either establish or expand school breakfast programs – are included in the bill. Chief authors from the Minnesota House of Representatives and Senate will discuss the impact the bill would have on the one in eight children who currently experience hunger.

The child hunger coalition is led by local communities and supported by major public and private partners such as Boston Consulting Group, Cargill, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota, Children’s Minnesota, General Mills, Hunger Solutions, Minnesota Milk Producers, Minnesota School Nutrition Association, The Sheridan Story and Youthprise.

Who: Rep. Heather Edelson (DFL, District 49A)
Sen. Paul Anderson (R, District 44)
Hiawatha Collegiate High School students
Kiley Krocak, social worker, Hmong International Academy, Minneapolis Public Schools
Allison O’Toole, chief executive officer, Second Harvest Heartland
Colleen Moriarty, executive director, Hunger Solutions
Dr. Emily Chapman, chief medical officer, Children’s Minnesota
Amy Thering, president, Minnesota School Nutrition Association
Noah Atlas, public policy chair, Minnesota School Nutrition Association

When: Thursday, March 14; 9:30 a.m.

Where: Minnesota State Capitol – State Office Building, Room 181
75 Dr. Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., St. Paul, MN 55155

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 2018, provided more than 89 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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