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May 19, 2021

Dr. Nancy Dishner
Executive Vice-President
Niswonger Foundation
c/o Barbara.bates@niswongerfoundaiton.org

Dear Dr. Dishner,

Thank you and the Niswonger Foundation for your past support of the Second Harvest Food Bank of Northeast Tennessee Food for Kids Backpack Program. Your support helped provide hunger relief for food-insecure students in 20 Hancock and Hawkins County Schools.

Food insecurity in our region increased by 23% during the COVID-19 Pandemic and is still at a high level. Your help is needed more than ever for Second Harvest to meet the increased need for hunger relief. We ask your consideration of an \$18,000 grant to provide the Food for Kids Backpack Program to serve chronically hungry students in Hancock and Hawkins County for the 2021-2022 school year.

The Food for Kids Backpack program (FFK) helps solve childhood hunger by distributing nutritious, easy-to-prepare snacks and meal items for children to take home from school. The program provides food for children to eat on weekends and during school breaks when other food resources, like free and reduced school meals, are not available. The food is distributed two or more times per month throughout the school year. Food items include soups, canned entrees, macaroni and cheese, instant oatmeal, juice, shelf-stable milk, snack bars, and other nutritious items that children can quickly eat or prepare by themselves.

During the current school year, the Food for Kids program provided food bags for 640 children in Hawkins County per month and 156 children in Hancock County. In addition to the food bags, the program distributed food boxes for families. The boxes contained dry goods, fresh produce and cold items like dairy products. A total of 6,656 pounds of food was distributed to families in Hancock County and 17,455 pounds of food in Hawkins County through the program.

Each year, Second Harvest seeks funding sponsors to help cover the costs of the Food for Kids Program for each school system. Program costs include food, repacking, and transportation expenses. There is never a charge for the school, the child or their family.



Many children in Northeast Tennessee don't have enough to eat in the home. In SHFBNT's eight-county service region, a total of 29,015 children qualify for federal free and reduced lunch programs and are considered economically disadvantaged. Hancock County has 790 students, and Hawkins County has 3,691 students who are economically disadvantaged, qualify for free and reduced meals, and are at-risk for chronic hunger and food insecurity.

A contribution from the Niswonger Foundation will substantially impact the lives of food-insecure children during the upcoming 2021-2022 school year. Thank you again for your past support and for considering this request.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rhonda Chafin', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Rhonda Chafin
Executive Director