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April 28, 2022

Dr. Nancy Dishner  
Executive Vice-President  
Niswonger Foundation  
223 North Main Street  
Greeneville, TN 37745

Dear Dr. Dishner:

Thank you and the Niswonger Foundation for supporting Second Harvest Food Bank of Northeast Tennessee's Food for Kids program in Hancock and Hawkins counties. Your support is helping us provide nutritious food for over 450 economically disadvantaged students in the Hancock and Hawkins County Schools during the current 2021-2022 school year.

Your support of Food for Kids (FFK) invests in the future and creates a stronger community by helping hungry children who cannot provide for themselves. With the end of the current school year in site, SHFBNT plans to provide FFK for the upcoming 2022-2023 school year. **We ask the Niswonger Foundation to consider a donation of \$18,000 to help us purchase the nutritious food we need to offer this vital program in Hancock and Hawkins Counties.**

According to Feeding America studies on child nutrition, adequate nutrition aids academic achievement, higher test scores, and better attendance. In Hancock and Hawkins Counties, many children qualify for federal free and reduced lunch programs at school and are considered economically disadvantaged. Hancock County has 790 students, and Hawkins County has 3,691 students eligible for free and reduced meals and are at risk for hunger and food insecurity. The Food for Kids program provides food for the most chronically hungry children whose schools identify as needing the program. Feeding America studies also show that adequate nutrition impacts a child's development and learning ability. One local teacher told us, "We are very appreciative of the effort made by Second Harvest to assist us in meeting the hunger needs of our students. As educators, we know that students need to be properly nourished for optimal learning."

**The Food for Kids program helps solve childhood hunger** by distributing easy-to-prepare snacks and meal items for the most chronically hungry children to take home from school twice each month during the school year. The FFK bags include soups, canned entrees, macaroni and cheese, instant oatmeal, juice, shelf-stable milk, snack bars, and other healthy items that children can quickly eat or prepare with minimal help or supervision. **Families of the children also receive a monthly family food box**, including fresh produce and cold items like dairy products, to provide food for the children and their families.



**FEEDING THE HUNGRY IN NORTHEAST TENNESSEE SINCE 1986**

One mother recently told us how Food for Kids helps her family. "We have four children in the house, and two are school age. Next year there will be three in school. We are so grateful for school lunch and the food we receive from Second Harvest."

**This year with help from the Niswonger Foundation, SHFBNT distributed enough food in Hancock and Hawkins Counties through the FFK program to provide children with over 47,900 meals.** The FFK program distributed 9,679 pounds of food in Hancock County, serving an average of 156 children and their families per month. In Hawkins County, FFK provided 47,915 pounds of food, serving 300 children and their families per month.

SHFBNT's annual report of our hunger relief efforts in Hancock and Hawkins Counties at the end of FY2021 (July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021) shows the following amounts of food distributed and the numbers of people receiving assistance.

**In Hancock County** – SHFBNT provided 417,192 meals and served 1,024 individuals each month:

- Two partner agencies served 815 individuals per month
- 1 Mobile Food Pantry served 53 individuals per month
- 3 FFK school programs served 156 children per month

**In Hawkins County** – SHFBNT provided 1,049,008 meals and served 2,668 individuals each month:

- Four partner agencies served 1,343 individuals per month
- 5 Mobile Food Pantries served 303 individuals per month
- 2 Senior Grocery Mobile Pantries served 42 people per month
- The Food for Kids Program served 298 children per month.

Thank you again for your past support and for considering this request to support the Food for Kids program for the 2022-2023 school year. Please don't hesitate to contact me by email at [rchafin@netfoodbank.org](mailto:rchafin@netfoodbank.org) or by phone at 423-279-0430 ext. 206 for more information.

Sincerely yours,



Rhonda Chafin  
Executive Director

Cc: [Barbara.bates@niswongerfoundation.org](mailto:Barbara.bates@niswongerfoundation.org)

**Second Harvest Food Bank of Northeast Tennessee's (SHFBNT) mission is to feed the hungry in Northeast Tennessee by securing and distributing food and engaging our community in solving hunger through regional partnerships, programs, and education. SHFBNT provides hunger relief services for 45,000 food-insecure individuals per month in Carter, Greene, Hancock, Hawkins, Johnson, Sullivan, and Unicoi Counties.**