



CARTER • GREENE • HANCOCK • HAWKINS
JOHNSON • SULLIVAN • WASHINGTON • UNICOI

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April 25, 2023

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

Dear Dr. Dishner:

Feeding Children in Northeast Tennessee is a priority for Second Harvest Food Bank, and we thank the Niswonger Foundation for helping provide hunger relief for children in Hancock and Hawkins Counties. Your past support of 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.

According to Feeding America studies, adequate nutrition aids academic achievement, higher test scores, and better attendance. In Hancock County, 39% of children live in poverty, and 23.5% in Hawkins County. The Food for Kids program provides food for the most chronically hungry children who their school identifies as needing the program.

Emily, a mother of four school-aged children, recently told us how much she appreciates the Food for Kids Backpack Program: "My children bring home bagged snacks, and we are so grateful for the food. The backpack program has also helped introduce my children to new foods that are good for them."

Food for Kids provides nutritious food like canned soups and entrees, macaroni and cheese, instant oatmeal, juice, shelf-stable milk, snack bars, and other healthy items children can quickly eat or prepare with minimal help or supervision. Support from the Niswonger Foundation during the 2022/2023 current school year helped provide the Food for Kids program for 156 children in Hancock County and 381 children in Hawkins County.

The Food Bank plans to provide FFK for the upcoming school year in Hancock and Hawkins, and we estimate the cost will be around \$36,000. We ask the Niswonger Foundation to continue your support of feeding children in Hancock and Hawkins Counties with a donation of \$18,000 to cover half of the Food Bank's expenses to provide the program.



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 distributes food for an average of 45,000 food-insecure individuals monthly in Carter, Greene, Hancock, Hawkins, Johnson, Sullivan, and Unicoi Counties. During FY2022, the Food Bank distributed over 13.3 million pounds of food in the region through our programs and services. Over 1.2 million pounds of food was distributed in Hawkins County, providing hunger relief for over 2,700 people monthly. In Hancock County, we distributed over 264,000 pounds of food, providing hunger relief for an average of over 1,600 people monthly.

Thank you again for supporting our mission and considering our request to sponsor the Food for Kids Backpack Program in Hancock and Hawkins Counties for the upcoming 2023 – 2024 school year. Please don't hesitate to contact me by email at rchafin@netfoodbank.org or by phone at 423-279-0430 ext. 206 for more information.

I'm enclosing our Winter 2023 newsletter with additional information about our programs and services providing hunger relief in Northeast Tennessee and our FY2022 Annual Report.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rhonda Chafin', with a stylized, cursive script.

Rhonda Chafin
Executive Director