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April 24, 2024

Dr. Nancy Dishner  
President and CEO Niswonger Foundation  
c/o [Barbara.bates@niswongerfoundation.org](mailto:Barbara.bates@niswongerfoundation.org)

Dear Dr. Dishner:

Second Harvest Food Bank of Northeast Tennessee (SHFBNT) sincerely appreciates the support we receive from the Niswonger Foundation for our child hunger relief programs in Hancock and Hawkins Counties. Your support of the Food Bank's Food for Kids program helps ensure children have necessary food. 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."

With your help, SHFBNT is providing the Food for Kids Backpack Program for over 350 children in Hancock and Hawkins County Schools this year:

- Hancock County High School – 14 students receive two food bags per month
- Hancock County Middle School – 14 students receive two food bags per month.
- Cherokee High School - 94 students receive food boxes monthly
- Clinch School –70 children receive food boxes monthly
- Volunteer High School –120 students received food boxes monthly
- Mooresburg Elementary –20 children receive two food bags per month

In addition to the monthly food bag and box distributions, the Hawkins County Family Resource Center provides families with emergency food boxes from Second Harvest.

We ask the Niswonger Foundation to continue your support of our child hunger relief programs in Hancock and Hawkins County for \$18,000 to help us provide Food for Kids bags and boxes for an estimated 350 students for the 2024/2025 school year. We estimate the cost will be around \$38,500. Your donation helps us cover almost half of the program expenses, with most of your donation going toward purchasing food for distribution.

Feeding America studies show that food security in children is linked with long-term wellness, health & academic success. Feeding America also states in their Map the Meal Gap annual study of food insecurity and food costs that 310 children (19.2%) of children in Hancock County and 1,780 children (14.7%) in Hawkins County may be food insecure, meaning they may not always have access to the food they need.

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 FY2023, the Food Bank distributed over 12.9 million pounds of food in the region through our programs and services, the equivalent of 10.1 million meals.



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

The Niswonger Foundation has been an excellent partner in helping us solve hunger in Northeast Tennessee. 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 2024-2025 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 or Kristen Reedy, Development Director, at 423-279-0430 ext. 201 for more information.

Sincerely yours,

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

Rhonda Chafin  
Executive Director