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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 30, 2024

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Second Harvest Food Bank Volunteer Center Expansion Project Groundbreaking

Kingsport, TN – Second Harvest Food Bank of Northeast Tennessee held a groundbreaking ceremony to kick off phase II of their building expansion project on January 30, 2024.

The building expansion is an important initiative of the Food Bank’s Strategic Plan to help meet the growing need for hunger relief in Northeast Tennessee and part of their long-range transformational strategies to lower food insecurity to 5% by 2030.

A key initiative of Second Harvest’s Strategic Plan is to expand the current building to help meet the growing need for hunger relief in our service region. The 9,360-square-foot building expansion will increase the food bank’s capacity to distribute nourishing food to those in need in the area and enhance the volunteer experience.

Phase I included an internal expansion of the current volunteer center, which increased the volunteer work area and improved the space where volunteers sort and pack food for distribution. Phase II will include the external expansion, including a new volunteer area and an office complex. The volunteer area will consist of a reception and registration area, volunteer training space, breakroom with kitchenette, and conveniently located restrooms. The new office complex will accommodate the growing operational staff and include a small meeting room and office areas.

“This building expansion will accommodate the growing number of volunteers and staff needed to meet the rising need in our region. This expansion will give volunteers the space to work and train and provide conveniently located restrooms and a break area.

Along with more volunteers, we also have a growing staff that needs office and meeting space. The new space will provide a central location allowing for improved communication, streamlined workflow, and access to resources.” said Executive Director Rhonda Chafin.

Second Harvest would like to thank the following donors for their generous support of the expansion project: The James and Laura Rogers Foundation, Food Lion Feeds Charitable Foundation, Publix’s Super Market Charities, Food City, Bank of Tennessee, and Massengill Defriece.

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About Second Harvest

Second Harvest Food Bank of Northeast Tennessee has led the effort to end hunger in Northeast Tennessee since 1986. It is the only food bank serving the eight-county region incorporating Carter, Greene, Hancock, Hawkins, Johnson, Sullivan, Unicoi, and Washington Counties. Their mission is to feed the hungry in Northeast Tennessee by securing and distributing food and engaging our community in the fight to end hunger through regional partnerships, programs, and education. In addition to serving partner agencies, Second Harvest administers programs that directly benefit individuals and families at risk for hunger. The Food Bank is a 501 c3 non-profit organization located in Kingsport, Tennessee, and is a member of Feeding America, the Nation's largest Food Bank network netfoodbank.org

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