FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact:

Karen Pozna

216-738-2132

**Greater Cleveland Food Bank Receives BJ’s Charitable Foundation Grant to Provide Fresh Way to Fight Hunger**

*Thirty Grants Given to Celebrate BJ’s Wholesale Club’s 30th Anniversary and Increase Local Capacity*

**Cleveland, OH** –The Greater Cleveland Food Bank recently announced they’ll be one of 30 food banks to be awarded grants this September from BJ’s Charitable Foundation. The foundation is distributing grants in celebration of BJ’s Wholesale Club’s 30th anniversary.A member of the Feeding America network, the Greater Cleveland Food Bank is among those awarded gifts to increase the food storage capacity for local anti-hunger organizations.

While food banks often have immense space and storage to provide product for the food pantries and shelters they support, these smaller partner organizations and charities often have limited equipment abilities. Limited equipment hinders their ability to serve the community. By providing anti-hunger partners like food pantries, shelters and meal programs with the necessary equipment, they can transport and store a larger amount of perishable items and thus distribute more food to local families struggling with food insecurity.

“We are thrilled to have been awarded one of the 30th anniversary grants by BJ’s Charitable Foundation,” said Karen Pozna, Director of Communications, Greater Cleveland Food Bank. “Because of this grant, we will be able to work with our local partners to help them obtain more healthful foods and ensure that food makes it into the hands of more neighbors in need.”

The Greater Cleveland Food Bank will be utilizing funds from BJ’s in order to purchase walk-in refrigerators for three agencies in Cuyahoga, Geauga, and Richland Counties. We project that this grant will increase the amount of perishable product distributed by these three agencies by 840,000 pounds in the first year alone

The BJ’s Charitable Foundation $21,000 grant to the Greater Cleveland Food Bank is being awarded during September as the non-profit is also observing Hunger Action Month™. Hunger Action Month is a nationwide campaign, founded by the leading domestic hunger-relief organization Feeding America, to mobilize the public to take action on the issue of hunger in America. The Food Bank will be working within the community on a variety of local Hunger Action Month activities.

The added local capacity provided by this grant comes on the heels of the national [Hunger in America 2014](http://help.feedingamerica.org/site/PageServer/?pagename=HIA_hunger_in_america&s_src=W148REFER&s_referrer=help.feedingamerica.org&s_subsrc=Hunger%20Research&_ga=1.167016638.1238048837.1406842721) study announcement that one in seven Americans, more than 46 million people including 12 million children, rely on food pantries and meal service programs.

###

**About the Greater Cleveland Food Bank**

The Greater Cleveland Food Bank is the largest hunger relief organization in Northeast Ohio, providing nearly 39 million meals in 2013 to hungry people in Cuyahoga, Ashtabula, Geauga, Lake, Ashland and Richland counties. Our mission is to ensure that everyone in our communities has the nutritious food they need every day. We do this through both food distribution and SNAP outreach efforts. The best and easiest way to help is to go online: visit us at [www.GreaterClevelandFoodBank.org](http://www.GreaterClevelandFoodbank.org). The general public can help by making a monetary donation. For every dollar donated, the Foodbank can provide enough food for four nutritious meals.

**About BJ’s Wholesale Club**
BJ's is dedicated to providing Members with high-quality, brand-name food and merchandise at prices that are significantly lower than supermarkets, supercenters, department stores, drug stores and specialty retail stores.  BJ's carries the most product variety of any Membership club with more than 7,000 items, including supermarket-sized staples, USDA Choice meats and stock-up items, as well as all-natural and organic products. BJ's is the only membership club to accept all manufacturers' coupons and for greater convenience, offers the most payment options including EBT.

Headquartered in Westborough, Massachusetts, BJ's Wholesale Club, Inc. is a leading operator of warehouse clubs in the eastern United States.  The Company currently operates 203 clubs and in 15 eastern states.  Learn more and shop online at [www.BJs.com](http://www.BJs.com) or, for exclusive content visit [Facebook.com/bjswholesaleclub](https://mail.bjs.com/owa/redir.aspx?C=PbhlKT0izku4Jiw-8HKxJa3O-8lEj9EIc86_FGjfDHN3RNEnc5Vs3FLWOHdFEGEULsJwFDGm62I.&URL=http%3a%2f%2fwww.facebook.com%2fbjswholesaleclub) and [Twitter.com/bjswholesale](https://mail.bjs.com/owa/redir.aspx?C=PbhlKT0izku4Jiw-8HKxJa3O-8lEj9EIc86_FGjfDHN3RNEnc5Vs3FLWOHdFEGEULsJwFDGm62I.&URL=http%3a%2f%2fwww.twitter.com%2fbjswholesale).

**About BJ’s Charitable Foundation**BJ’s Charitable Foundation was established with the mission to enrich every community BJ’s Wholesale Clubs serve. The Foundation supports nonprofit organizations that primarily benefit the underprivileged in the area of basic needs (hunger prevention, self-sufficiency, education and health). For more information about BJ’s Charitable Foundation, please visit, [www.bjs.com/charity/](https://mail.bjs.com/owa/redir.aspx?C=PbhlKT0izku4Jiw-8HKxJa3O-8lEj9EIc86_FGjfDHN3RNEnc5Vs3FLWOHdFEGEULsJwFDGm62I.&URL=http%3a%2f%2fwww.bjs.com%2fcharity%2f).