



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**COMMUNITY LEADERS KICKOFF 29th YEAR OF THE
HARVEST FOR HUNGER CAMPAIGN**

CLEVELAND, OH – February 25, 2019 -- Harvest for Hunger Co-Chairs Rick Chiricosta, Chairman, President & CEO, Medical Mutual and Sean Richardson, Regional President, Cleveland, Huntington, kicked off the 29th annual Harvest for Hunger campaign, the Food Bank's spring fundraising campaign, at the Greater Cleveland Food Bank. Kristin Warzocha, President & CEO, Greater Cleveland Food Bank and Melvin Hodge, Manna Food from Heaven, a Food Bank partner agency, also addressed the crowd, made up of Harvest for Hunger food and funds drive coordinators, volunteers and supporters including the Kitchen Cabinet, a key group of community leaders helping lead this year's campaign.

Harvest for Hunger is one of the largest annual, community-wide food and funds drives in the nation. It raises dollars to provide nutritious food for local hunger relief organizations in 21 counties in Northeast and North Central Ohio. ***When you donate \$1 to Harvest for Hunger, the Greater Cleveland Food Bank can help provide enough food for four nutritious meals.*** The campaign is a joint effort of four food banks including the Greater Cleveland Food Bank, Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank, Second Harvest Food Bank of the Mahoning Valley, and Second Harvest Food Bank of North Central Ohio.

This year, the participating food banks plan to raise enough for more than 22 million meals for the annual Harvest for Hunger campaign.

Sean Richardson and Rick Chiricosta addressed the many ways Northeast Ohioans can support Harvest for Hunger this spring:

- Check Out Hunger, February 29 – April 11: Give \$1, \$5 or \$10 at the cash register at Giant Eagle, Heinen's, Dave's Markets, Fishers Foods, or Buehler's Fresh Foods.
- Visit www.GreaterClevelandFoodBank.org/Harvest to donate securely online.
- Purchase tickets to the 25th Market at the Food Bank, Harvest for Hunger's signature event, on Sunday, April 26 from 6-8:30 p.m. Go to www.GreaterClevelandFoodBank.org/Market.
- Organize a food and funds drive at your school or workplace or set up a virtual food drive. Call 216.738.2140 or email HarvestForHunger@ClevelandFoodBank.org.
- For more details on how to get involved, go to www.GreaterClevelandFoodBank.org/HFH.

At the event, Cuyahoga County Executive Armond Budish and Greater Cleveland Food Bank board chair Darnell Brown, City of Cleveland, also addressed the crowd speaking to the increased need for food in our community and the importance of participating in Harvest for Hunger. Local media personalities participated in a Celebrity Supermarket Challenge. They collected and sorted the "10 Most Needed Items" as part of the Harvest for Hunger campaign



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including beans, peanut butter, canned protein like tuna fish, canned or boxed entrees, pasta sauce, whole grain pasta and rice, 100% fruit juice, canned fruits and vegetables and cash. Local Celebrities from each of our media partners packed the product and the winners were Jeremiah, Jack and Morgan from the Q104 morning team!

Check Out Hunger will run February 29 through April 11. Harvest for Hunger supermarket sponsors include Giant Eagle, Heinen's, Dave's Markets, Buehler's Fresh Foods and Fishers Foods. Media sponsors include Cleveland.com, WEWS News Channel 5, WKYC TV 3, WJW Fox 8, WOIO Channel 19, The Lake, KISS FM, Q104, WGAR, WMJI, WMMS, and WTAM. For more information, visit www.GreaterClevelandFoodBank.org/Harvest

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