



Media Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Local BJ's Wholesale Club Managers Get Hands On To Fight Hunger *Volunteers Cut Ribbon on New Refrigerator Purchased With Grant Funding*

Norfolk, VA -At a recent distribution at the Grace Lutheran Church food pantry, a Partner Agency of the Foodbank of Southeastern Virginia and the Eastern Shore, BJ's Wholesale Club managers volunteered their time to serve those in need. Their participation came on the heels of the Foodbank receiving a \$21,000 grant from BJ's Charitable Foundation to purchase refrigeration units for seven local agencies to increase their capacity to provide fresh foods to their recipients. The grant was one of 30 given to food banks nationwide in celebration of BJ's 30th anniversary. While on site, a ribbon cutting ceremony was held to celebrate the arrival of the refrigerator.

"We love having the opportunity to connect our supporters, like BJ's, with Partner Agencies so they can see firsthand the impact they've made in the community," said Joanne E. Batson, Chief Executive Officer for the Foodbank. "There is no greater reward than seeing the look of relief on someone's face when they're given food that will help sustain them and their families when times are tough."

During their volunteer experience, BJ's employees had the chance to get hands on with all aspects of the food distribution process from checking in each recipient, to filling bags with food and assisting with loading items in vehicles.

"In the business world, we tend to think that what we do day-to-day is very important, until we take the time to do something for someone in need and our eyes are opened," said Artie Espenshade, AVP Regional Manager for BJ's Wholesale Club.

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BJ's Wholesale Club employees and pantry volunteers stand with Artie Espenshade, AVP Regional Manager for BJ's Wholesale Club (sixth from right), Joanne E. Batson, CEO for the Foodbank (fifth from right), and Grace Lutheran Church's food pantry coordinator, Juanita Urps (fourth from right) in front of the new refrigeration unit purchased with funds from a BJ's Wholesale Club grant.

About the Foodbank of Southeastern Virginia

The Foodbank of Southeastern Virginia and the Eastern Shore, a member of Feeding America® and the Federation of Virginia Food Banks, has been providing food for those facing hunger since 1981. To date, we have distributed over 230 million meals throughout our service area, which includes the cities of Norfolk, Portsmouth, Chesapeake, Suffolk, Franklin, and Virginia Beach as well as the counties of Southampton, Northampton, Sussex, Isle of Wight, and Accomack.

For up-to-date information on the Foodbank, you can find us online at www.foodbankonline.org; like us on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/SEVAFoodbank>; or follow us on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/FoodbankSEVA>.

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/.

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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 or, for exclusive content visit Facebook.com/bjswholesaleclub and Twitter.com/bjswholesale.

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