



Media Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Join The Foodbank in Largest Single-Day Food Drive to Help Stamp Out Hunger

High Rates of Food-Insecurity Call for Much Needed Community Support

NORFOLK, VA, May 5, 2015 – The Foodbank of Southeastern Virginia and the Eastern Shore is asking for the community’s support on May 9th as it joins America’s letter carriers and Feeding America®, the nation’s largest domestic hunger-relief organization in the annual Stamp Out Hunger food drive. Hosted each year by the National Association of Letter Carriers, Stamp Out Hunger is the largest single-day food drive in the country. The event helps to support your local food bank and the one in seven residents who struggle with hunger in our region.

Area supporters can join the Foodbank and help those who are at risk of hunger by simply collecting non-perishable food items in a specially designed Food Lion bag that will be dropped in mailboxes the first week of May. All filled food bags (plastic preferred) should be left near participant’s mailboxes by 7 a.m. on May 9th. A letter carrier will collect the donations and deliver them to the Foodbank of Southeastern Virginia and the Eastern Shore. Items will then be distributed to those facing hunger right here in Southeastern Virginia and on the Eastern Shore.

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“Stamp Out Hunger is like no other food drive. It allows every neighborhood across the country to collectively come together on one day to do their part to fight hunger. We are so grateful to everyone that donates non-perishable items and for the letter carriers who take the time to collect each bag to help fight hunger,” said Joanne E. Batson, CEO for the Foodbank.

According to Feeding America’s recently released Map the Meal Gap 2015 study, the Foodbank services an area with a population of over 1.2 million residents, of which 13.8 percent (13.8%) are estimated to experience food insecurity, including 281,693 who are children. Stamp Out Hunger is the opportune time for the public to support neighbors who struggle with hunger.

“Hunger affects every community in the country,” said Fredric Rolando, NALC president. “At least six days a week, our letter carriers are a local touch point in communities everywhere and we are thrilled to be able to support our neighbors in need through the Stamp Out Hunger food drive.”

The Stamp Out Hunger food drive was created in 1993 by the National Association of Letter Carriers to encourage residents to come together in an effort to stock the shelves of food banks and pantries nationwide. The event is held on the second Saturday of May each year. For well over a decade, the Foodbank Southeastern Virginia and the Eastern Shore, in conjunction with local letter carriers and the United Way of South Hampton Roads, have worked together to contribute to the national food drive, delivering over 1.2 million pounds of donated food to help those in need locally, as well as support the national drive.

The Stamp Out Hunger food drive is held in 10,000 cities and towns in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands and Guam. Last year, letter carriers collected over 70 million pounds of food donations to be donated to their local food bank and pantries.

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The United States Postal Service, AFL-CIO, National Rural Letter Carriers' Association, Food Lion, United Way, Valassis and Valpak are all supporting this year's Stamp Out Hunger food drive.

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.

About National Association of Letter Carriers

The 280,000-member NALC represents letter carriers across the country employed by the U.S. Postal Service, along with retired letter carriers. Founded by Civil War veterans in 1889, the NALC is among the country's oldest labor unions.

For up-to-date information on the Foodbank, 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>.

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