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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Foodbank Announces a Unique and Urgent Volunteer Opportunity**

**NORFOLK, VA | October 2, 2023** – The Foodbank of Southeastern Virginia and the Eastern Shore is excited to announce a one-of-a-kind volunteer opportunity: peanut shocking at Izzie's Field. We are calling upon 60 enthusiastic individuals to join us in this experience of directly contributing to the local food supply chain. This hands-on opportunity promises not only a sense of fulfillment but also a chance to connect with nature and the farming community. Here are the essential details:

### **Logistics:**

- This volunteer opportunity will take place on Wednesday, October 4, and Thursday, October 5, with two shifts each day from 8:00-11:00am and 10:00am-1:00pm.
- Izzie's Field is located about 100 yards down on the right, just past the Virginia State Police station, situated at 30010 Camp Pkwy in Courtland, VA. Please use the Virginia State Police station address in your GPS for easy navigation.
- Volunteers are requested to park along the outskirts of Izzie's Field.

### **Volunteer Responsibilities:**

- Volunteers will play a crucial role in assisting with the peanut harvest right from the field.
- As a Peanut Shocker, you will receive detailed instructions on best practices, including proper techniques and handling guidelines.
- Teamwork and effective communication are essential as volunteers will work together to ensure a smooth and productive harvest.
- This is an outdoor physical activity, and volunteers must be prepared for tasks involving stooping, lifting, cutting, and pulling for an extended period.
- Volunteers must be at least 12 years old and able to handle 35-40lbs repeatedly.

### **What to Wear:**

- Closed-toed shoes (boots or gym shoes) are mandatory for safety.
- Long pants and a lightweight long-sleeved shirt that you don't mind getting dirty are recommended.
- Volunteers are encouraged to bring gloves, a hat, and sunscreen to stay comfortable while working in the field.

To register, please visit <https://foodbankonline.volunteerhub.com/vv2/lp/seva/> or contact the Volunteer Team at:

- Stephanie Cuffee | Volunteer Manager – (757) 314-4559 or scuffee@foodbankonline.org
- Amari Hinton | Volunteer Coordinator – (757) 269-9569 or ahinton@foodbankonline.org

### **About the Foodbank**

For more than 40 years, the Foodbank of Southeastern Virginia and the Eastern Shore has provided more than 380 million meals to those in our community who face hunger. Through our programs, facilities, and large network of community partners, we work to eliminate hunger daily. Our understanding of the need for a long-term solution has led to the creation of a refreshed strategic plan aimed at moving Hampton Roads closer to achieving the mission of eliminating

hunger for those we serve—not only for the day, or for the week, but for a lifetime. For up-to-date information, visit [foodbankonline.org](http://foodbankonline.org) or follow us on social media.

### **About Izzie's Field**

This Farm to Foodbank project – funded by Kroger and supported by New Life Church, Pop Son Farm, and Hubbard Peanut Company – aims to increase the availability of fresh produce to our community while also supporting the hard working and generous spirit of a local grower. By partnering with minority farmer Elisha Barnes, the Foodbank aims to address the historical barriers faced by socially disadvantaged farmers and strengthen the food system in the Franklin area. Mr. Barnes tends to the 20-acre farm, dedicating 10 acres to crops of his choice, while caring for crops selected by the Foodbank on the remaining half. The harvested produce is distributed throughout various food pantries across the region. The success of this pilot program will guide our future endeavors, and if all goes well, we plan to expand similar projects to the Eastern Shore and South Hampton Roads regions.