FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Foodbank and Sentara to Host a Ribbon Cutting to Recognize Their Collaborative Effort for Health and Well-Being

NORFOLK, VA | February 21, 2024 – The Foodbank is thrilled to introduce the opening of our newest food hub, The Community Feed at Berkley, located at 701 S Main St., Norfolk, VA 23523. Recognizing the profound impact of dietary patterns on health outcomes, Sentara Health has joined forces with the Foodbank to address the challenge of food access in underserved communities.

The Community Feed is strategically located adjacent to the Sentara Community Care Center at Berkley, providing a unified space where individuals can access medical, behavioral health, and social support services alongside fresh and nutritious foods. It is designed to resemble a small grocery store where individuals can choose the items that best suit their dietary needs, offering a dignified experience for our neighbors.

Community members and patients can shop once a week, providing them with regular access to fresh and nutritious foods at no cost. In addition, the food hub aims to address nutritional needs through educational programming. This holistic approach recognizes the connection between food access, dietary patterns, and overall health.

As part of the grand unveiling, a ribbon-cutting ceremony is scheduled for Tuesday, February 27, at 9:00 am symbolizing the official launch of The Community Feed at Berkley. This event will celebrate the collaboration between the Foodbank and Sentara, as well as the commitment to creating an inclusive and supportive environment where health and nutrition go hand in hand. We express our gratitude to Sentara for their vision and partnership, and we look forward to witnessing the positive impact of this food hub on the health and vitality of the community it serves.

About the Foodbank
Since 1981, the Foodbank of Southeastern Virginia and the Eastern Shore has proudly provided more than 380 million meals to our neighbors in need. We play a vital role in the fight against hunger by collecting, storing, and distributing food to our neighbors, while also working to address the root causes of hunger and food insecurity. This past year, we – alongside our neighbors – endured the impact of rising inflation, expiration of critical pandemic-era programs, and increased fuel and shipping costs. These hardships intensified the demand for our services and for the first time, we distributed more than 21 million pounds of food. With the support of our dedicated volunteers, generous donors, and compassionate community members, we strive to exceed this ever-growing baseline goal each year, ensuring that no one in our community goes to bed hungry. For up-to-date information, visit foodbankonline.org or follow us on social media.

About Sentara
Sentara Healthcare, an integrated, not-for-profit health care delivery system, celebrates more than 130 years in pursuit of its mission – “we improve health every day.” Sentara is one of the largest health systems in the U.S. Mid-Atlantic and Southeast, and among the top 20 largest not-for-profit integrated health systems in the country, with 30,000 employees, 12 hospitals in Virginia and Northeastern North Carolina, and the Sentara Health Plans division which serves more than 1.2
million members in Virginia and Florida. Sentara is recognized nationally for clinical quality and safety, and is strategically focused on innovation and creating an extraordinary health care experience for our patients and members. Sentara was named to IBM Watson Health’s “Top 15 Health Systems” (2021, 2018), and was recognized by Forbes as a “Best Employer for New Grads” (2022), “Best Employer for Veterans” (2022), and “Best Employer for Women” (2020).