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After 30 Years, Food Bank Still Making a Difference - Often a Hotdog at a Time

Winston-Salem NC September 8, 2012 - Their very first donation consisted of hotdog buns. Thirty years and thousands of buns later, the Second Harvest Food Bank of Northwest N.C. celebrated its 30th anniversary with a hotdog luncheon at its impressive headquarters on the south side of Winston-Salem.

The venerable organization remains dedicated to its mission of feeding N.C.'s hungry even though the job has become larger during the current tough economic climate. "Over the last few years we've seen an increase in families that require our services. In fact, many people who used to be donators to Second Harvest have become our client's," said Tomi Melson, Director of Development and Community Relations. Melson understands how quickly a person's fortune's can change. Just a little over a year ago, she found herself unemployed and in need of the Food Bank's services. Today she plays a major role in bringing attention and aide to nutritional needs of the citizens of North Carolina.

Various notables attended and spoke the event including; Clyde Fitzgerald Executive Director, NWNC Second harvest Food Bank, Janet Gibbs, CFO of Feeding America, Second Harvest's national parent company and Allen Joynes, Mayor of Winston-Salem. Suzanne LaFollette-Black Associate Director of AARP North Carolina donated a minivan on behalf of her company to help with the work that Second Harvest does.

Despite the festive atmosphere, the Second Harvest employees and volunteers stressed the importance of what they do and of having both community and government support. "We need the people who believe in the work of the Second Harvest Food Bank to contact their local and national representatives to make sure that government funds aren't cut," said Fitzgerald. "We've done a lot of good work but our shelves are looking pretty bare right now. If we don't see an increase in donations soon, we won't be able to continue doing the important work we do."

Second Harvest Food Bank of Northwest North Carolina was founded in 1981 to help the increasing number of families in NC who found them selves in need of emergency food assistance. Since that time Second Harvest of Northwest North Carolina has worked tirelessly with their almost 400 partner agencies to provide healthy food options for North Carolinians in need.

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