



## For Immediate Release

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### **Second Harvest Food Bank Announces 2014 Partner Appreciation "Super Hero" Award Winners**

**(CHARLOTTE, NC)** – January 26, 2015 – Second Harvest Food Bank of Metrolina hosted the annual Partner Appreciation Luncheon at Myers Park United Methodist Church on Thursday, January 22<sup>nd</sup>. This annual event with a "Super Heroes" theme recognizes Second Harvest food donors, financial donors, volunteers and organizations who have been a super hero in helping to end hunger in the 19-county area in North and South Carolina that Second Harvest services.

For the first time in 8 years, Second Harvest presented Lifetime Achievement awards. Two organizations were recognized for their extraordinary philanthropic efforts over the years to help feed hungry children, seniors and working poor families in the Metrolina region. The first award winner was the Springs Close Foundation. The Springs Close Foundation sponsors a Second Harvest senior box program, backpack program and mobile pantries and has donated over \$600,000 to the Food Bank to help in the battle against hunger. Anne Springs Close is also a former Ted Heyward Award winner. The second Lifetime Achievement award was given to Bank of America. Bank of America supports the Food Bank through financial donations – almost \$1.2 million to date – employee giving and corporate match programs and through volunteerism.

There were also several other notable prestigious awards given to worthy companies and individuals. The Frank Timberlake "Innovation in Action" Award, named for one of the Food Bank's founding Board Members, was presented to Lynn Carlson for originating the idea of the new Second Harvest program Together We Feed. Together We Feed has been implemented in several of Charlotte Mecklenburg schools with high poverty rates and the plan is to eventually have the program at all schools with a large percentage of at risk youth. Carlson's idea for the program is to not only feed children at risk of hunger, but to connect with them through reading books to classes, providing arts & crafts, providing hygiene items and toys and most importantly providing love.

The Ted Heyward "Compassion in Action" Award, named for another one of the Food Bank's founding Board Members and given to an individual who embodies this philosophy was awarded to Carolina Panther Thomas Davis and his wife Kelly. The couple strongly believes in helping underprivileged kids and as a result heavily supports the Food Bank's Taste of the Panthers event whose proceeds go to fight childhood hunger. Thomas & Kelly rally player support of the event, spending tens of thousands of dollars purchasing raffle tickets and other items and donating items to the auction. Their support of the event is one of the primary reasons it has been successful, helping the Food Bank raise over \$700,000 since the event started. Thomas and Kelly also stepped in a couple of years ago to lead the effort for the Harris Teeter Thanksgiving Backpacking event and have visited numerous Second Harvest Kids Café sites over the years.

*-more-*

*(Partner Appreciation Awards cont'd)*

A full list of all the award winners is listed below. Photos of each winner are also available.

**Community Partnership Award:**

*Food Lion Feeds*  
Food Lion

**Food Industry Partner Awards:**

Simpson's Eggs  
Whole Foods  
Titan Farms

**Food Drive Partner Awards:**

David Weekley Homes  
Vanguard

**Special Event Partner Award:**

Charlotte Eye Ear Nose & Throat

**Individual Volunteer Award:**

Ernest Perry

**Community Partnership Awards:**

*Together We Feed*  
Hendrick Automotive Group  
Charlotte Mecklenburg Schools

**Frank Timberlake Award:**

*"Innovation in Action"*  
Lynn Carlson

**Media Partner Award:**

Maureen O'Boyle

**Faith Based Partner Award:**

Elevation Church

**Special Event Partner Awards:**

*Chef's Best*  
Harris Teeter  
Cargill  
CRVA

**New Partner Awards:**

DP World  
Electrolux  
Mercedes-Benz of South Charlotte

**Lifetime Achievement Awards:**

The Springs Close Foundation  
Bank of America

**Ted Heyward Award:**

*"Compassion in Action"*  
Thomas & Kelly Davis

**2014 Highlights**

- Distributed over 45 million pounds of food and household products.
- Distributed 16.1 million pounds of fresh produce, meat, dairy and seafood.
- Volunteers donated over 133,000 hours. Equivalent to 64 full-time positions with a labor cost savings of almost 3 million dollars.
- 159 different programs dedicated to ending Child Hunger.
- Almost 5 million pounds collected in Food Drives.
- Over 5 million pounds of food distributed on 417 Mobile Pantries.

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**About Second Harvest Food Bank of Metrolina**

*As part of Feeding America, Second Harvest Food Bank of Metrolina - serves 19 counties in North and South Carolina. In FY2013-2014, Second Harvest Food Bank of Metrolina distributed over 45 million pounds of food and household items to almost 650 hunger feeding agencies including emergency pantries, soup kitchens, senior programs, shelters and low-income daycares.*