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VOLUNTEERS PROCESS 46,000 POUNDS OF FOOD DURING *YES WE CAN END HUNGER* DAY OF SERVICE

MADISON, Wis., January 18, 2010 –Second Harvest Foodbank of Southern Wisconsin today hosted its second annual *Yes We Can End Hunger* volunteer day on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day in conjunction with the Corporation for National and Community Service and the Obama Administration's call for Americans to commit to a day of service. As part of President Obama's United We Serve initiative, he is asking Americans to make the King Holiday "a day on, not a day off," and honor the legacy of Martin Luther King, Jr., who lived his life in service to others, by volunteering at a local organization to help the less fortunate.

"Second Harvest Foodbank is honored to host *Yes We Can End Hunger* again during the national day of service," says Dan Stein, President/CEO of Second Harvest Foodbank of Southern Wisconsin. "In bringing together volunteers for *Yes We Can End Hunger*, we hope to have inspired increased volunteerism and charitable support in southwestern Wisconsin."

During *Yes We Can End Hunger*, volunteers from AmeriCorps and area businesses and schools repacked nearly 46,000 pounds of apples, cereal and onions into family-size portions for distribution to those struggling with hunger through Second Harvest Foodbank's partner food pantries, shelters and meal sites. Volunteers worked two 40-person shifts.

"Thanks to the time and muscle donated by our *Yes We Can End Hunger* volunteers, these family-size portions of apples, onions and cereal will be available to our neighbors facing hunger within a day of being packed," adds Stein.

Second Harvest Foodbank is always looking for volunteer assistance and expertise. With volunteer hours averaging 5,000 per month, the Foodbank is able to save more than \$1 million in payroll and focus its resources on programs that serve those facing hunger. To learn about current individual and group volunteer opportunities, contact Second Harvest Foodbank of Southern Wisconsin at 608-223-9121 x114 or tanyap@shfbmadison.org.

About Second Harvest Foodbank of Southern Wisconsin

Second Harvest Foodbank of Southern Wisconsin is a nonprofit organization dedicated to ending hunger in southwestern Wisconsin, where more than 100,000 people – 40 percent who are children – are at risk of hunger. Through food and financial donations, Second Harvest Foodbank acquires and distributes food to more than 400 programs, including food pantries, shelters and meal sites, in 16 counties. From July 1, 2008 – June 30, 2009, Second Harvest Foodbank distributed more than 6.8 million pounds of food. It is one of 200 affiliates of Feeding America, the nation's largest charitable hunger-relief organization, engaging our country in the fight to end hunger. For more information, visit www.secondharvestmadison.org.

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