



Media Advisory

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Second Harvest Food Bank's Chuck Harmon Ready to Go the Extra Mile to End Summer Hunger for Kids *250-Mile Hike to End Summer Hunger Begins July 4*

Winston-Salem, NC –June 28, 2016 –On a day when many of us will gather with family and neighbors around tables piled high with food in celebration of the July 4th holiday, Second Harvest Food Bank of Northwest NC's Chuck Harmon will set off on a 250-mile long *Hike to End Summer Hunger*. It's a huge commitment, but Harmon is ready. He has been training for weeks at walk events hosted by school groups, apartment communities, local businesses and others. Along the way, Harmon has collected thousands of pounds of food and thousands of dollars to support Second Harvest Food Bank and its partners working to fill the summer meal gap for kids. And he's just getting started.

Harmon has set a goal to raise \$3 from 100,000 people. Before he begins his trek, he wants community members to know that their gifts of any size to support his efforts will be put to use immediately to help local children.

With school out for summer, Second Harvest Food Bank and its partner food assistance agencies are working to make sure that local kids have the food they need to enjoy their summer break and start back to school in the fall ready to learn.

"During the school year, thousands of children in our area can rely on free or reduced priced school meals to help them stay focused on learning, but the summer months are a different story," explains Harmon, who serves as the Food Drive and Retail Donor Relations Manager for Second Harvest Food Bank. "I remember what those school meals meant to me as a kid, and I remember the generosity of neighbors when those meals weren't available. Now, I'm the guy at Second Harvest Food Bank who is always asking folks to go the extra mile to help families in our community. This July, I aim to walk my talk. I'm going to go the extra mile, and I am going to ask others to do the same, knowing that each and every gift of support will make a difference to a child in need."

Harmon's month-long journey along the North Carolina Mountains to Sea trail will span the width of Second Harvest Food Bank's 18-county service area, beginning at Mile Post 290.3 on the Blue Ridge Parkway in Watauga County and concluding at Burlington's City Park in Alamance County. Harmon will walk a minimum of 15 miles each day to honor 15 years of partnership and feeding community with WXII 12 News. The news outlet will be covering Harmon's journey throughout the month of July and hosting community donation events on Wednesdays, beginning with a special food and funds drive event to be held this coming Wednesday, June 29, 2016, at the Winston-Salem Fairgrounds (Gate #1) in Winston-Salem.

Throughout July, community members will be able to follow Harmon's journey by tuning in to WXII 12 News broadcasts and on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/Summermealsmatter/>. Donations to support

Harmon and Second Harvest Food Bank's efforts to provide summer meals for kids can be made online at hungernwnc.org or mailed to Second Harvest Food Bank at 3655 Reed Street, Winston-Salem, NC 27107.

GO THE EXTRA MILE Hike to End Summer Hunger Route:

A high-level view of Harmon's route can be viewed [here](#).

Community Food Drive Schedule:

Wednesday, June 29 at Winston-Salem Fair Grounds Gate #1, **Winston-Salem**

Wednesday, July 6 at Chick-fil-a, Hwy 421, **Wilkesboro**

Wednesday, July 13 at Elkin Rescue Squad North, Bridge Street, Elkin

Wednesday, July 20 at Ingles Shopping Center, Main Street, **Walnut Cove**

Wednesday, July 27 at Speas Elementary School, Polo Road, **Winston-Salem**

Interview Opportunities:

Chuck Harmon can be reached for interviews at 336.648-4907.

Throughout July, Harmon will join WXII news staff for live broadcasts along the hike route:

Monday July 4, Watauga County

5 a.m.-7 a.m. – Thunder Hill Overlook (Mile Post 290.3 on the Blue Ridge Parkway)

12 p.m.- 1 p.m. – Grandview Overlook (Mile Post 281.2)

5 p.m. -6:30 p.m. –Osborne Mountain Overlook (Mile Post 278)

Friday, July 8, Alleghany and Wilkes County

5 a.m.-7 a.m. –Freebourne's Eatery and Lodge, Laurel Springs, NC

5 p.m.- 6:30 p.m. – Brinegar Cabin Overlook (Mile Post 238.5)

Monday July 11, Wilkes and Surry County

5 a.m.-7 a.m. – Stone Mountain Country Store (1050 John P. Frank Parkway, Traphill, NC))

12 p.m.-1 p.m. – Rex Tripplett Grocery (979 Roaring Gap Church Road, Elkin, NC)

Friday, July 15, Surry and Stokes County

5 a.m.-7 a.m. – Yadkin River Adventures (104 Old Rockford Road, Rockford, NC)

12 p.m.- 1 p.m. – Shorty's Country Store (7063 Siloam Road, Siloam, NC)

5 p.m. -6:30 p.m. – Horne Creek Living Farm (308 Horne Creek Farm Road, Pinnacle, NC)

Monday, July 18, Stokes County

5 a.m.-7a.m. – Pinnacle Post Office (2870 N. Old Hwy 52, Pinnacle, NC)

5 p.m.-6:30 p.m. – Tory's Den Parking Area (Charlie young Road)

Friday, July 22, Stokes & Guilford County

5 a.m.-7 a.m. – Main Street Diner (419 N. Main Street, Walnut Cove, NC)

12 p.m.-1p.m. – Stokesdale Christina Church (8607 Stokesdale Street, Stokesdale, NC)

5 p.m.-6:30 p.m. – Summerfield Town Hall (4117 Oak Ridge Road, Summerfield, NC)

Tuesday, July 26, Alamance County

5 p.m.-6:30 p.m. – City Park, Burlington NC (1333 Overbrook Road, Burlington, NC)

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