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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Feeding America Southwest Virginia and Mountain States Health Alliance announce new partnership to support health and well-being of local residents

(Abingdon, Va.) – September 5, 2017 – Feeding America Southwest Virginia (FASWVA) and Mountain States Health Alliance proudly announce their new partnership, which will help support the overall health and well-being of Southwest Virginia residents.

The partnership will help address food insecurity in the region by adding two more FASWVA Mobile Food Pantry sites to Southwest Virginia and incorporating fresh produce into MFP distributions.

Mountain States is also developing plans to provide basic health and wellness services at food pantry sites, helping the organization reach rural Southwest Virginia residents who find it challenging to make it to health clinics due to economic struggles, lack of transportation or other issues

“This collaborative partnership between Mountain States Health Alliance and Feeding America Southwest Virginia presents a truly unique opportunity to impact the health and well-being of our clients,” says Pamela Irvine, President and CEO of Feeding America Southwest Virginia. “We’re excited to be able to go beyond food insecurity and help stabilize our clients’ lives with these critical services.”

The partners will also use the food bank’s data tracking system, “FeedTheNation,” to survey MFP clients about their needs, allowing them to voluntarily share health information about their households. The data collected will help FASWVA and Mountain States know what kind of health services are most needed in that community.

“We’re proud to partner with such a wonderful, community-focused organization as we work to improve the health of Southwest Virginia residents,” said Allison Rogers, vice president of strategic planning for Mountain States Health Alliance. “We don’t want anyone to face barriers accessing food or health care; that’s something Mountain States

is very passionate about. Through our partnership with Feeding America Southwest Virginia, we hope to help families throughout the region get access to the resources they need to lead healthy lives.”

About Feeding America Southwest Virginia

Feeding America Southwest Virginia was founded locally in 1981 and proudly commemorates 36 years of fighting hunger and changing lives through community partnerships. For the last three and a half decades, the Food Bank's ultimate mission has remained the same: eliminate hunger in the region. The primary function of the Food Bank is to secure and distribute large quantities of food for Southwest Virginia's hungry. Approximately \$26.5 million worth of food and grocery related products are channeled annually through a network of more than 330 partner feeding programs in our 26-county, 9-city region that provide food or meals to those in need. The local Food Bank is an affiliate member of Feeding America. Visit www.faswva.org for more information or like us on Facebook.

About Mountain States Health Alliance

Since 1998, Mountain States Health Alliance has been bringing the nation's best health care close to home to serve the residents of Northeast Tennessee, Southwest Virginia, Southeastern Kentucky and Western North Carolina. This not-for-profit health care organization based in Johnson City, Tenn., operates a family of 14 hospitals serving a 29-county region. Mountain States offers a large tertiary hospital with a level 1 trauma center, a dedicated children's hospital, several community hospitals, two critical access hospitals, a behavioral health hospital, three long-term care facilities, home care and hospice services, retail pharmacies, outpatient services, and a comprehensive medical management corporation. The team members, physicians and volunteers who make up Mountain States Health Alliance are committed to caring for you and earning your trust. For more information, visit www.MountainStatesHealth.com.