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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **Morgan Stanley Provides \$10,000 Grant to Feeding America Southwest Virginia To Expand Fresh Produce Program**

*Award Will Increase Access to Fresh Fruits and Vegetables for Families in Need in Salem*

**(Salem, Va.) August 7, 2017** - Feeding America Southwest Virginia today announced a new grant from the Morgan Stanley Foundation to support the food bank's fresh produce program. The funds will be used to increase the food bank's ability to access, transport and store fresh produce and provide fruits and vegetables for local residents.

"We are proud to continue our commitment of providing fresh produce to children and their families. This grant will make healthy foods available to those who might otherwise not have access to them," said Joan Steinberg, Global Head of Philanthropy at Morgan Stanley and President of the Morgan Stanley Foundation.

"By providing the people we serve with increased access to fresh fruits and vegetables, we give them the building blocks for a healthy life," said Pamela Irvine, President and CEO of Feeding America Southwest Virginia. "We are excited to work with Morgan Stanley to help improve the health of the people in our community."

Food insecurity continues to be an issue facing millions of Americans. According to data from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) released in September 2016, 42 million people in the United States are living in food-insecure households, 13 million of whom are children. Feeding America's Hunger in America 2014 study found that 89 percent of Feeding America's client households with at least one child lack reliable access to a sufficient quantity of affordable, nutritious food.

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### **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](http://www.faswva.org) for more information or like us on Facebook.

### **About Feeding America**

Feeding America is the nationwide network of 200 food banks that leads the fight against hunger in the United States. Together, we provide food to more than 46 million people through 60,000 food pantries and meal programs in communities across America. Feeding America also supports programs that improve food security among the people we serve; educates the public about the problem of hunger; and advocates for legislation that protects people from going hungry. Individuals, charities, businesses and government all have a role in ending hunger. Donate. Volunteer. Advocate. Educate. Together we can solve hunger. Visit [www.feedingamerica.org](http://www.feedingamerica.org), find us on Facebook or follow us on Twitter.



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