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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Feeding America Southwest Virginia Breaks Ground on Community Solutions Center**

*Food Bank Also Announces \$350,000 Gift From Food Lion Feeds*

**(Salem, Va.)** Feeding America Southwest Virginia recently kicked off renovations on a 3,900 square-foot building at 2328 Melrose Ave., NW that will become the Community Solutions Center. The food bank also announced a \$350,000 gift from Food Lion Feeds, which will go toward the capital costs of renovating and equipping the new facility, as well as providing Food Lion Feeds with a naming opportunity. Food Lion Feeds' gift represents the largest single corporate gift received by the food bank.

The Community Solutions Center will house several program areas including a production and training kitchen, which will be used to prepare meals for the food bank's "Café to Grow" children's foodie truck. Goodwill Industries of the Valleys will also be partnering with the food bank to offer culinary job training there. Other planned areas include a fresh market, a community room and a sub-station for Roanoke Police.

"We couldn't embark on this important community project without the exceptional support we've received from Food Lion," said Pamela Irvine, President and CEO of Feeding America Southwest Virginia. "This gift cements our 26-year-long partnership and demonstrates not only Food Lion's investment in hunger relief, but also in the City of Roanoke and the people who live here."

"Food Lion Feeds is proud to continue our partnership with Feeding America Southwest Virginia in such an impactful way," said Rob Ward, director of operations for Food Lion's Roanoke market. "In addition to providing meals to hungry families, this building will transform the lives of many who need job training skills so they can get better employment to help support their local families."

Support from Carilion Clinic, SunTrust, and long-time volunteer and supporter Mrs. Lorene Pearman was also instrumental in enabling the food bank to fund the building's initial purchase.

The Community Solutions Center is slated to open in the summer of 2018.

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### **About Feeding America Southwest Virginia**

Feeding America Southwest Virginia was founded in 1981 and proudly commemorates 36 years of fighting hunger and changing lives through community partnerships. The Food Bank is an affiliate member of Feeding America. 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 the 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. Visit [www.faswva.org](http://www.faswva.org) for more information or like us on Facebook.

**About Food Lion**

Food Lion, based in Salisbury, N.C., since 1957, has more than 1,000 stores in 10 Southeastern and Mid-Atlantic states and employs more than 63,000 associates. By leveraging its longstanding heritage of low prices and convenient locations, Food Lion is working to own the easiest full shop grocery experience in the Southeast, anchored by a strong commitment to affordability, freshness and the communities it serves. Through Food Lion Feeds, the company has committed to provide 500 million meals to individuals and families in need by the end of 2020. Food Lion is a company of Delhaize America, a U.S. division of Zaandam-based Royal Ahold Delhaize Group. For more information, visit [www.foodlion.com](http://www.foodlion.com).