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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Feeding America Southwest Virginia receives \$50,000 grant from Publix Super Markets Charities

ABINGDON, Va. (March 27, 2018) – Feeding America Southwest Virginia was recently awarded a grant of \$50,000 from Publix Super Markets Charities. The funds will support expansion of children’s feeding programs through the food bank’s Abingdon distribution center.

More than 43,000 children in Southwest Virginia don’t have access to enough food to live healthy, active lives. FASWVA currently reaches thousands of children through its regular food distributions, after-school and summer feeding programs, and weekend backpack programs.

“Publix Charities is proud to support Feeding America Southwest Virginia in their efforts to feed the children in our communities. We believe every child deserves to have hope, love and joy,” said Kelly Williams-Puccio, Executive Director.

These expansion efforts will focus on cultivating relationships and establishing new children’s feeding programs in an area spanning from Wythe to Lee County. Counties in this area have been particularly hard hit by changing economic conditions and unemployment, making it challenging for families to get enough nutritious meals.

“With this generous support from Publix Charities, we hope to increase the number of children served from our Abingdon distribution center by at least 10 percent,” says Pamela Irvine, Feeding America Southwest Virginia President and CEO. “But that’s just the beginning. Adding a staff member here in Abingdon will also help us increase our community engagement efforts and identify additional resources for more long-term program expansion in this community – and all of that means more kids with full tummies.”

Contributions to Feeding America Southwest Virginia may be made at www.faswva.org. Donations help feed the more than 150,000 people in Southwest Virginia who don’t know where their next meal is coming from.

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About Feeding America Southwest Virginia

Feeding America Southwest Virginia was founded locally in 1981 and proudly commemorates 37 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.