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## TECH LEADERS SHERYL SANDBERG, JOHN DONAHOE, AND MIKE SCHROEPFER STAND UP FOR KIDS

Campaign Co-Chairs Helping Second Harvest Raise \$7 Million to End Child Hunger

SAN JOSE, Calif., April 12, 2016 – Hunger can have devastating consequences for kids. Studies show that kids who don't get enough to eat can suffer emotional and physical effects that hamper their ability to do well in school and succeed later in life. Despite the enormous wealth in Silicon Valley, one in three local kids is at risk for hunger. That's why Second Harvest Food Bank has launched its Stand Up for Kids Campaign to raise \$7 million to end local childhood hunger.

"Education is the key to earning a decent living, but hunger is depriving kids of a good education, and the cycle of poverty continues," said Kathy Jackson, CEO of Second Harvest Food Bank of Santa Clara and San Mateo Counties. "We have enlisted the support of local tech leaders because too many kids aren't getting enough to eat right here in Silicon Valley. When kids get the nutritious food they need, they are better prepared to learn. They have the energy to pursue their dreams."

Campaign co-chairs include Sheryl Sandberg, COO of Facebook and founder of LeanIn.org; John Donahoe, former CEO of eBay Inc., and Eileen Donahoe, director of Global Affairs, Human Rights Watch; and Mike Schroepfer, chief technology officer at Facebook, and Erin Hoffmann, technologist.

Hunger has been linked with delayed development and learning difficulties. Children who struggle with hunger are also at higher risk for health complications as well as behavioral issues, anxiety, and mood swings.

"Those challenges affect all of us and have the potential to rob our future workforce of great minds," Sandberg said. "There are so many things about the world we can't change – this is something we can. Every child deserves to go to bed without hunger and have the chance to meet his or her full potential. Second Harvest feeds 85,000 kids per month and has a remarkable track record of providing nutritious meals to families who need it most."

Donahoe added: "If you are a kid in school worrying about food and wondering when you're going to eat again, it impacts your ability to embrace your education. That's why childhood hunger is such an important issue to address. We live in one of the wealthiest regions in the country, one that is experiencing tremendous success at an extraordinary time in history. We have a responsibility to take care of everyone in our community. It's unacceptable not to live up to that. It's simply the right thing to do."

## **Making Sure Kids Have Access to Healthy Food**

The Stand Up for Kids Campaign will help to fund Second Harvest's ongoing effort to provide kids with the nutritious foods they need to stay healthy, including fresh fruits and vegetables and important protein items like milk, peanut butter, eggs, and chicken. Protein items in particular can be very difficult to acquire and expensive to purchase. It will also support Second Harvest's work to expand school pantries in high-need areas and invest in innovative efforts that are connecting more kids and their families to food.

Second Harvest has increased the number of school pantries in Santa Clara and San Mateo counties from 40 to 70 in the last year. Through its Tailored School Solutions initiative, Second Harvest is working with school districts where more than 70 percent of the students qualify for free or reduced-price school meals to provide wraparound services to kids and their families, which could include a school pantry, nutrition education, and outreach services to connect families to other food-assistance programs like CalFresh (food stamps).

Second Harvest is also partnering with community groups and libraries to expand its summer pilot project that provides meals to kids and their parents or adult caregivers during the summer, a challenging time for families because kids don't have access to the free and reduced-price meals they receive at school. Through its Lunch at the Library program, Second Harvest pays for the adult meals while the federal Summer Food Service Program covers the

kids' meals. Kids have a more positive experience when they can eat with their parents and adults are more likely to bring their kids if they can also have a meal.

Second Harvest works through a network of nearly 330 nonprofit partners at more than 700 sites to ensure that kids and families have enough nutritious food to eat, including pantries, shelters, soup kitchens, schools, after-school programs, and community centers.

"The dollars raised will help Second Harvest expand our work with local schools and community organizations so that any child who needs a healthy meal can get one," Jackson said. "That means creating more school pantries so families have access to fresh produce and other groceries, but it also means leveraging other resources like school breakfasts, the federal summer meal program, and CalFresh. We have to explore every option to make sure kids can eat."

To learn more or get involved, visit <a href="https://www.SHFB.org">www.SHFB.org</a> or call 866-234-3663.

Families who are struggling to put food on the table can call Second Harvest's Food Connection multilingual hotline at 800-984-3663 to learn about food-assistance programs that can help, including CalFresh.

Second Harvest Food Bank of Santa Clara and San Mateo Counties is the trusted leader dedicated to ending local hunger. Since its inception in 1974, Second Harvest has become one of the largest food banks in the nation, providing food to nearly one quarter of a million people each month. The Food Bank mobilizes individuals, companies and community partners to connect people to the nutritious food they need. More than half the food distributed is fresh produce. In fact, Second Harvest provides more fresh fruits and vegetables than any other food bank in the United States. Second Harvest also plays a leading role in promoting federal nutrition programs and educating families on how to make healthier food choices. Visit www.SHFB.org to get involved.