FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SAN DIEGO COUNTY 6TH HIGHEST CHILD FOOD INSECURITY IN U.S.
Study shows 137,450 children are facing hunger in San Diego County

San Diego, CA – May 4, 2017 – New study finds that 423,290 people, including 153,970 children, in the Feeding San Diego service area experience food insecurity. Map the Meal Gap 2017 results reveal that San Diego County ranks sixth out of the 14 U.S. counties with more than 100,000 children struggling with food insecurity.

Map the Meal Gap, the latest report by Feeding America® on food insecurity and the cost of food at both the county and congressional district level, indicates that food insecurity exists in both San Diego and Imperial County, Feeding San Diego’s service area. Both counties have severe child food insecurity with 1 in 3 children in Imperial County facing hunger and 18.9 percent of San Diego County children don’t know where their next meal will come from. Overall food insecurity ranges from a low of 12.3 percent of the population in San Diego County up to 14.5 percent in Imperial County. The national average food insecurity rate across all counties is 14 percent.

The annual meal gap in San Diego also remains high, with more than 71 million meals required to meet the need and an additional 4.6 million needed in Imperial County.

To address findings from this study, Feeding San Diego representatives will be available for press interviews at 1 p.m. today, May 4 at the FSD distribution center located at 9455 Waples St., Suite 135 in San Diego.

“1 in 5 children in San Diego are struggling with hunger,” said Vince Hall, CEO of Feeding San Diego. “I urge our community to join with Feeding San Diego to ensure our families and children have the vital nutrition they need to succeed.”

Feeding San Diego is one of 200 food banks in the Feeding America network that collectively provides food assistance to 46 million Americans struggling with hunger. Feeding San Diego serves 63,000 children, families and seniors struggling with hunger each week.

“It is disheartening to realize that millions of hardworking, low-income Americans are finding it increasingly difficult to feed themselves and their families at the same time that our economy is showing many signs of improvement, including a substantial decline in the number of people who are unemployed,” said Diana Aviv, CEO of Feeding America. “This study underscores the need for strong federal nutrition programs as well of the importance of charitable food assistance programs, especially the food pantries and meal programs served by the Feeding America network of food banks.”

Map the Meal Gap 2017 uses data from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, U.S. Census Bureau, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics and food price data and analysis provided by Nielsen (NYSE: NLSN), a global provider of information and insights. The study is supported by founding sponsor The Howard G. Buffett Foundation, Conagra Brands Foundation and Nielsen.
Other key local findings:

- Highest local Congressional district child food insecurity rate at 25.6 percent in District 51
- Highest local Congressional district food insecurity rate at 14 percent in District 52
- Of the food insecure children in the Feeding San Diego service area, 31 percent are likely not eligible for federal nutrition assistance
- 1 in 3 children in Imperial County and 1 in 5 children in San Diego County are food insecure

Dr. Craig Gundersen, Professor of Agricultural and Consumer Economics at the University of Illinois, Executive Director of the National Soybean Research Laboratory and a member of Feeding America’s Technical Advisory Group is the lead researcher of Map the Meal Gap 2017.

A summary of the findings, an interactive map of the United States, and the full report are available at map.feedingamerica.org.

Join the conversation about Map the Meal Gap 2017 on Twitter using #MealGap.

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ABOUT FEEDING SAN DIEGO
Established in 2007, Feeding San Diego (FSD) is the leading hunger-relief organization in the county, providing 21.2 million meals within the last year, and the only Feeding America affiliate in the region. FSD provides food and resources to a network of more than 225 distribution partners serving 63,000 children, families and seniors each week. Focused on healthy food, education and advocacy, FSD is building a hunger-free and healthy San Diego through innovative programs and collaborative partnerships. To learn more about Feeding San Diego and its hunger-relief initiatives, visit feedingsandiego.org.

About Feeding America
Feeding America is a 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 food pantries and meal programs in communities throughout 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 http://www.feedingamerica.org/. Find us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/FeedingAmerica or follow us on Twitter at www.twitter.com/FeedingAmerica.

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