Feeding San Diego Receives $75,000 Grant from the Walmart Foundation to Fund Infrastructure and Equipment Needed for Handling Fresh Food

San Diego, CA – June 27, 2017 – Feeding San Diego (FSD), the leading hunger-relief organization in San Diego County, today announced a $75,000 grant from the Walmart Foundation to fund the infrastructure that will ultimately help the hunger-relief organization’s partner agencies secure and distribute more nutritious food to families in need. The grant will support equipment investments necessary to handle perishable products, such as refrigerated vehicles; coolers and freezers for transporting, storing and distributing food; thermometers and temperature calibration devices; among other items.

“One in 8 people struggle with hunger in San Diego including 153,970 children,” said Vince Hall, CEO of Feeding San Diego. “We are thankful to the Walmart Foundation for helping to ensure that people who struggle with hunger have access to nutritious food. This grant will go a long way in helping Feeding San Diego and our partner agencies serve our community.”

FSD secures fresh, perishable food from more than 180 local grocery stores and retailers in the San Diego County area to rescue an average of nearly a million pounds of food. Providing nearly half of the food distributed by Feeding San Diego, the Food Rescue program diverts quality food like produce, dairy, baked goods, meats and other perishable items from the landfill to be picked up directly by our partner agencies to serve clients. Recognized for its efficiency and effectiveness, this model enables FSD to reduce food waste while providing nutritious food to the community.

The Walmart Foundation has been instrumental in helping food banks rescue and distribute more perishable food from retailers across the United States in a sustainable, cost-effective way. This grant is a part of Walmart and the Walmart Foundation’s ongoing commitment to helping families who struggle with hunger by providing four billion meals to people in need in the U.S. by 2020.

Since 2009, the Walmart Foundation has been a leading supporter of infrastructure grants to Feeding America food banks and their member agencies. Walmart and the Walmart Foundation provide donations of both food and funds to the Feeding America nationwide network of 200 food banks. Locally, the Walmart Foundation has provided a number of infrastructure grants, most recently in 2016, providing refrigeration, shelving, carts, bins and other assets to increase perishable food storage and overall network capacity. Additionally, in 2016, Walmart donated more than 22 million pounds of food, the equivalent of more than 18 million meals, to fight hunger in San Diego.

With food insecurity remaining high throughout the country, the ability to distribute more food is critical for food banks. According to the USDA, more than 42 million people nationwide are food insecure, which means that they may not know where they will find their next meal. In San Diego County, 423,290 residents are food insecure. To learn more about what Feeding San Diego is doing to fight hunger, visit feedingsandiego.org.
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.