Teaming Up to Tackle Hunger: Food Lion Feeds Partners with Local Colleges

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Sack to Give Back Program kicks off Hunger Action Month efforts; provides meals to those in need for every quarterback sack

SALISBURY, N.C., Sept. 19, 2023 (GLOBE NEWSWIRE) -- The fifth season of Food Lion Feeds' Sack to Give Back program will bring together a record 36 colleges and universities to help nourish neighbors experiencing hunger. Through this collaborative and proactive approach to tackle food insecurity, Food Lion Feeds will provide 1,000 meals (up to 30,000 meals per school) for every quarterback sack made by the participating institution. The effort benefits Feeding America®, the nation's largest domestic hunger-relief organization, and local partner food banks throughout Food Lion's 10-state operating area. Food Lion Feeds was founded in 2014 by Food Lion to address food insecurity in the towns and cities it serves.

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The Sack to Give Back program also kicks off in September to align with Hunger Action Month, a time when Food Lion Feeds deepens its extensive existing relationship with Feeding America®. The partnership highlights the impact food can have on a person's life and inspires action to end hunger within their communities. Since 2019, the Sack to Give Back campaign has resulted in more than 2.1 million meals* provided to local partner food banks across Food Lion's 10-state footprint.

In 2023, Food Lion Feeds' Sack to Give Back program has expanded from 33 to 36 teams across Delaware, Georgia, Maryland, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia and West Virginia. The unique program will benefit 19 Feeding America local partner food banks serving communities where each school is located. With Week 3 of the 2023 college football season officially in the books, the participating colleges have already recorded 206 quarterback sacks, equivalent to 206,000 meals.

"At Food Lion, we are committed to creating a winning game plan to nourish our neighbors," said Kevin Durkee, Manager, Food Lion Feeds, Food Lion. "By partnering with student-athletes and their communities, we increase awareness and support to address food insecurity in the towns and cities we serve. Together, we can tackle hunger."

The Sack to Give Back campaign is one of many efforts Food Lion Feeds leads during Hunger Action Month. In addition to this campaign, Food Lion Feeds will remodel and stock the shelves of nearly 30 food pantries across its 10-state operating area through its annual event, The Great Pantry Makeover. During this 30-day effort, Food Lion associates volunteer for activities such as painting and cleaning pantries to installing shelving, freezers, coolers and other equipment to expand the capacity for fresh fruits, vegetables and other products. Additionally, in partnership with customers, Food Lion will help provide meals to neighbors experiencing hunger through its annual Food Lion Feeds Apple Bag campaign from Sept. 13 – Oct. 3. The Apple Bag campaign benefits Feeding America and local partner member food banks.

The participating schools and correlating food banks that will benefit from each school's efforts are:

School	School Location	Food Bank Benefitting from Meal Donations
Appalachian State University	Boone, NC	Second Harvest Food Bank of Northwest NC
Bluefield State University	Bluefield, WV	Mountaineer Food Bank
Bowie State University	Bowie, MD	Maryland Food Bank
Catawba University	Salisbury, NC	Second Harvest Food Bank of Metrolina
Clemson University	Clemson, SC	Second Harvest Food Bank of Metrolina
Coastal Carolina University	Conway, SC	Lowcountry Food Bank
East Carolina University	Greenville, NC	Food Bank of Central & Eastern NC
Elizabeth City State University	Elizabeth City, NC	Food Bank of the Albemarle
Elon University	Elon, NC	Second Harvest Food Bank of Northwest NC
Fayetteville State University	Fayetteville, NC	Second Harvest Food Bank of Southeast NC
Georgia Southern University	Statesboro, GA	America's Second Harvest of Coastal Georgia
James Madison University	Harrisonburg, VA	Blue Ridge Area Food Bank
Johnson C. Smith University	Charlotte, NC	Second Harvest Food Bank of Metrolina
Liberty University	Lynchburg, VA	Blue Ridge Area Food Bank
Lincoln University	Oxford, PA	Food Bank of Delaware
Livingstone College	Salisbury, NC	Second Harvest Food Bank of Metrolina
North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University	Greensboro, NC	Second Harvest Food Bank of Northwest NC
North Carolina State University	Raleigh, NC	Food Bank of Central & Eastern NC

Old Dominion University	Norfolk, VA	Foodbank of Southeastern Virginia and the Eastern Shore
Shaw University	Raleigh, NC	Inter-Faith Food Shuttle
South Carolina State University	Orangeburg, SC	Harvest Hope Food Bank
St. Augustine's University	Raleigh, NC	Food Bank of Central & Eastern NC
Tennessee Tech University	Cookeville, TN	Second Harvest Food Bank of Middle TN
Towson University	Towson, MD	Maryland Food Bank
University of Delaware	Newark, DE	Food Bank of Delaware
University of Maryland	Adelphi, MD	Capital Area Food Bank
University of North Carolina	Chapel Hill, NC	Inter-Faith Food Shuttle
University of North Carolina at Pembroke	Pembroke, NC	Second Harvest Food Bank of Southeast NC
University of Richmond	Richmond, VA	Feed More
University of Virginia	Charlottesville, VA	Blue Ridge Area Food Bank
Virginia State University	Petersburg, VA	Feed More
Virginia Tech University	Blacksburg, VA	Feeding Southwest Virginia
Virginia Union University	Richmond, VA	Feed More
Wake Forest University	Winston-Salem, NC	Second Harvest Food Bank of Northwest NC
William and Mary College	Williamsburg, VA	Virginia Peninsula Foodbank
Winston-Salem State University	Winston-Salem, NC	Second Harvest Food Bank of Northwest NC

Through Food Lion Feeds, Food Lion has helped to provide more than 1 billion meals to individuals and families since 2014 and has committed to donate 1.5 billion meals by 2025. For more information on Food Lion Feeds' commitment to ending hunger, visit foodlion.com/feeds.

**$1 helps provide at least 10 meals secured by Feeding America® on behalf of local partner food banks.*

About Food Lion
Food Lion is an omnichannel retailer committed to nourishing its neighbors during the moments that matter most. More than 82,000 associates across 1,100+ stores deliver an easy, fresh and affordable shopping experience throughout 10 Southeastern and Mid-Atlantic states. Through its 'Count on me' culture, Food Lion fosters a sense of belonging for all associates, promoting a diverse and inclusive environment that has supported LGBTQ+ equality for nearly two decades. Food Lion is the only company in the country to be named an ENERGY STAR Partner of the Year for 22 consecutive years. It also pioneered a food rescue program to support food-insecure neighbors. Through Food Lion Feeds, the retailer has donated more than 1 billion meals to individuals and families since 2014 and has committed to donate 1.5 billion meals by 2025. Founded and based in Salisbury, N.C., since 1957, Food Lion is a company of Ahold Delhaize USA, the U.S. division of Zaandam-based Ahold Delhaize. For more information, visit foodlion.com.

About Feeding America
Feeding America is committed to an America where no one is hungry. We support tens of millions of people who experience food insecurity to get the food and resources they say they need to thrive as part of a nationwide network of food banks, statewide food bank associations, food pantries and meal programs. We also invest in innovative solutions to increase equitable access to nutritious food, advocate for legislation that improves food security and work to address factors that impact food security, such as health, cost of living and employment.

We partner with people experiencing food insecurity, policymakers, organizations and supporters, united with them in a movement to end hunger. Visit FeedingAmerica.org to learn more.

CONTACT: Food Lion Media Relations
704-245-3317
publicrelationsteam@foodlion.com

A photo accompanying this announcement is available at https://www.globenewswire.com/NewsRoom/AttachmentNg/8d45f753-c453-4bb3-98fc-bb49731a4e1f