



Second Harvest of Northwest PA
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NEWS RELEASE

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SECOND HARVEST EARNS PRESTIGIOUS 4-STAR RATING

August 31, 2010 – [Erie, Pennsylvania] – The Second Harvest Food Bank of Northwest Pennsylvania is one of America’s best managed nonprofit organizations, according to Charity Navigator, America’s premier charity evaluator. Charity Navigator President and CEO Ken Berger recently awarded Second Harvest the coveted 4-star rating for sound fiscal management for the third year in a row. Second Harvest is the only nonprofit headquartered in Erie to receive this highest rating for a third consecutive year.

“In this competitive philanthropic marketplace, Charity Navigator highlights the fine work of efficient charities and provides donors with essential information needed to give them greater confidence in the charitable choices they make,” said Berger. “Only 14% of the charities we rate have received at least three consecutive 4-star evaluations, indicating that Second Harvest Food Bank of NW PA consistently executes its mission in a fiscally responsible way, and outperforms most other charities in America.”

Karen Seggi, executive director of Second Harvest, expressed appreciation for the award, saying, “In this difficult financial climate, it is essential that our supporters know we take the extra step to make every donated dollar count. When they give to Second Harvest, donors can feel confident their contributions are helping to alleviate hunger in northwest Pennsylvania.”

Charity Navigator’s re-designation of Second Harvest as a trustworthy charity comes right before the observation of Hunger Action Month, when Americans are asked to help in the fight against hunger in their own communities. Northwest Pennsylvanians are encouraged to become involved with Second Harvest and its network of agencies, and take action against hunger during September. “There are three ways to help,” said Seggi. “You can donate food, funds or time, and each is very important to the success of our organization.”

Demand for volunteers has increased and Second Harvest has opened up an additional day each week for supporters to lend a hand. Anyone interested in volunteering or supporting Second Harvest is encouraged to call Second Harvest at 814-459-3663 or toll free at 1-800-604-9186.

About Second Harvest Food Bank of NW PA

The only food bank in northwest Pennsylvania, Second Harvest is the major supplier of food to a network of 403 member charitable agencies that obtain products from our warehouse and distribute them to individuals and families facing hard times in 11 counties. Our member agencies include food pantries, mobile food pantries, soup kitchens, shelters, Kids Cafes, weekend BackPack Programs and other nonprofit organizations. During fiscal year 2009-10, Second Harvest distributed 7.7 million pounds of food to member agencies, which in turn provided food to 72,600 unduplicated recipients.

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