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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Free Food Distribution Offered Through Second Harvest Heartland Food Bank

Mankato, MN (February 3, 2021) – A free food distribution for those in need of food or newly struggling to make ends meet due to the COVID-19 crisis is being held Saturday, February 27 from 11:00 to 1:00 p.m. at Prairie Winds Middle School, 1200 Prairie Winds Drive, Mankato, Minnesota. The event is being hosted by Open Door Health Center and Minnesota Valley Action Council and is being funded by Second Harvest Heartland Food Bank.

More funds have been allocated to the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). These funds will allow the food distribution events to continue through April 2021. The program provides vital assistance to producers of agricultural commodities and channels food to food banks, community, tribal, and faith-based organizations, and other non-profits serving Americans in need.

"This is a resource for the whole community and especially for those needing a little extra help right now," said Jayme Enamorado, Community Outreach Manager at Open Door Health Center. "If you are one of the many experiencing unexpected hardship due to the coronavirus crisis you are most welcome to participate in this program," she said.

Pre-packaged boxes of produce, dairy, and meat will be distributed safely through a drive-thru/curbside pick-up model. Food will be loaded into trunks by volunteers who will maintain social distance. No registration or paperwork is necessary and only basic demographic information will be asked of participants such as the ages of individuals in each household. No names, addresses, or other identifying information will be asked.

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About Open Door Health Center - Open Door Health Center is a federally qualified health center (FQHC), founded in 1994 to be a safety net clinic for the underserved populations in Southern Minnesota. Today, ODHC provides comprehensive medical, dental, and behavioral health care to ALL persons regardless of insurance coverage, or ability to pay. Our mission is to provide access to integrated, patient-centered care for our communities. Open Door serves approximately 11,000 unique patients each year. In addition, we provide free dental screening to more than 1000 school children in 16 elementary schools in South Central Minnesota each year. We also provide free insurance enrollment and legal assistance on-site, so that our patients are free to focus on their health.

About Minnesota Valley Action Council - MVAC is a community action agency. We are for communities, not for profit. We have served the people of south-central Minnesota since 1965. We believe that hard work should be valued and rewarded, that working people are struggling and that MVAC provides solutions. We develop resources and opportunities that empower people in low-wage work to secure affordable housing, viable transportation, employment, training for employment, and educational opportunities for children. MVAC provides services in Blue Earth, Brown, Faribault, Le Sueur, Martin, Nicollet, Sibley, Waseca and Watonwan counties.