



For Release: November 2, 2009

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## **LOWES FOODS BEGINS LARGEST FOOD DRIVE IN THE AREA NOVEMBER 4**

**Winston-Salem, NC** – The 15<sup>th</sup> annual Friends Feeding Friends food drive begins Wednesday, November 4, at all Lowe's Foods stores in North Carolina, South Carolina and Virginia. The food drive will continue through December 31. Last year, Lowe's Foods collected over 588,000 pounds of food. Since the food drive began in 1995, Lowe's Foods has supplied more than 5 million pounds of food to Second Harvest Food Banks and their member agencies. The company aims to collect 650,000 pounds of food this year with the help of schools, community groups and the many customers who donate food during the drive.

Friends Feeding Friends helps fill the shelves of local food pantries and soup kitchens, while raising awareness about the problem of hunger. It is the largest food drive conducted in the area. The food collected provides hundreds of thousands of meals for people who might otherwise go hungry.

“The food drive assures the Food Banks and many of their member agencies in our community a steady supply of high-quality foods that are greatly needed by those they serve,” said Steve Hall, president of Lowe's Foods. “The demand for food continues to increase as many families who have not had to use the local relief agencies are now finding themselves in need. As long as hunger persists, we will keep partnering with customers, schools and community organizations to help fill the shelves of food pantries, soup kitchens and other organizations that feed the hungry.”

Those who would like to donate food may place it in the barrels located at the front of each Lowe's Foods store. Most needed items include cereal, boxed dinners, canned goods (especially tuna, beef stew, pinto, kidney or black beans), boxed pasta, macaroni and cheese, rice,

canned fruits and vegetables, and canned or plastic containers of juice. General Mills has generously donated \$20,000 worth of product, to help get the food drive underway.

Those who would like to make cash donations may do so with coupons available at each register. Lowes Foods To Go customers have the option of purchasing bags of food online.

The food collected through Friends Feeding Friends is distributed to partner agencies by the Second Harvest Food Bank of Northwest North Carolina, Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina, Food Bank of the Albemarle, Manna Food Bank, Second Harvest Food Bank of Metrolina, Second Harvest Food Bank of Southeast North Carolina, Low Country Food Bank and other local charities in North Carolina, South Carolina and Virginia.

Lowes Foods also supports Food Banks with daily donations of food from its grocery stores and reclamation center.

Founded in 1954, Lowes Foods employs 8,500 people and operates 112 stores in North Carolina, South Carolina and Virginia. Its customer-service focus has led it to develop innovative services such as Lowes Foods To Go and to offer customers the services of a Corporate Nutritionist. Lowes Foods also provides excellent values, recipes and meal planning tips on its website. Information about these and other services may be found at [www.lowesfoods.com](http://www.lowesfoods.com).

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