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Food Recovery Network Reaches Two Million Meals Recovered for Those in Need

COLLEGE PARK, MARYLAND — January 16, 2018 — Food Recovery Network (FRN) is excited to announce that our movement has recovered more than two million meals for those in need. This major milestone was made possible because of our student leaders across the country who recover surplus food that would have otherwise gone to waste from dining halls and other locations and deliver it to hunger-fighting partner agencies in their communities. The U.S. Department of Agriculture defines one meal as 1.2 pounds of food. This new milestone for FRN represents how the more than 2.4 million pounds of food our network has successfully recovered and donated can be directly translated into actual meals for people facing food insecurity.

“There are two components to food recovery: fighting waste and feeding people,” said Hannah Cather, FRN’s Program Manager. “When we celebrated the two million pounds milestone in 2017, we were highlighting the fight against food waste. Now we’re talking about the meals we’ve offered our neighbors who are hungry. I’m proud when I think about the student leaders across the country who are changing the food waste and food recovery landscape one meal at a time.”

FRN student leaders deliver meals to more than 400 hunger-fighting partner agencies across the country, such as soup kitchens, food pantries, shelters, and community centers. As a result of FRN’s food donations, these partner agencies report being able to provide more choice, new variety, and greater nutritional value to those they serve. Partner agencies also report saving an average of $8,664 per year because they accept donations from FRN.

“These numbers aren’t just data points to us — they translate to real impact on the ground for thousands of people,” said Regina Northouse, FRN’s Executive Director. “It can be hard to wrap your head around what more than two million pounds of food means, but we understand what one meal means to someone who is hungry. Two million meals is enough to feed breakfast, lunch, and dinner to the entire population of Nashville, Tennessee. It’s enough to feed more than 5,400 people dinner for an entire year. Helping people in our communities across the country is a major part of what drives our student leaders.”

For Meryl Davis, FRN student leader at Knox College and member of the FRN Student and Alumni Advisory Board, this milestone is evidence of the profound impact that young people can have on issues of food waste and hunger. “I am so proud of FRN’s growth over the past three years that I’ve been part of this network. On a national level, I think the number two million not only emphasizes the fact that food insecurity is a nationwide issue worthy of
attention, but also the fact that we have the means — even as college students — to address food waste and hunger.”

About Food Recovery Network
Food Recovery Network (FRN) unites and supports college student leaders in the fight against food waste and hunger in America. Since 2011, FRN students have recovered over 2.4 million pounds of surplus food, that would otherwise go to waste, from their campus cafeterias and local restaurants to donate to hungry Americans. Food Recovery Network has over 235 college campus chapters in 44 states and the District of Columbia. For more information about Food Recovery Network, visit www.foodrecoverynetwork.org. Follow us on Twitter @FoodRecovery and Instagram @FoodRecovery and like us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/FoodRecoveryNetwork.