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FRN Reaches Milestone: Three Million Pounds of Food Donated

COLLEGE PARK, MARYLAND — Nov. 20, 2018 — Food Recovery Network (FRN) has reached another exciting milestone: three million pounds of food recovered and donated to those in need. Three million pounds of food is equivalent to 2.5 million meals donated to food insecure individuals at hunger-fighting nonprofits, such as homeless shelters, soup kitchens and community centers, across the country. Three million pounds of food recovered also means 2.6 million kg of CO2 emissions were prevented from harming the environment.

Three years ago, FRN set a goal to recover one million pounds of food year over year by the end of FRN’s 2020 program year. In 2015, FRN’s total pounds of food recovered surpassed one million pounds. Just 18 months later, FRN recovered another million pounds of food, bringing the total to two million pounds. During FRN’s last program year more than 880,000 pounds of food was recovered, bringing the grand total of pounds recovered to more than three million pounds.

Program Manager Hannah Cather said, “As I traveled across the country this spring semester for the FRN regional summits, it quickly became apparent how we’ve achieved this goal so quickly: the determination, passion, and hard work of our student leaders. We are developing tools and resources so that our network can increase its capacity and build upon the success of reaching this milestone.”

Kyle Ruhe, who founded an FRN chapter this year at Jacksonville University in Florida, said that being part of a national movement for the first time has been a truly meaningful experience. Ruhe said. “Without a doubt I believe this milestone will fire up the [students] who are already on board and only stir up others when they come to realize we are history makers and world changers.”

While FRN celebrates the milestone of three million pounds recovered, because it means food is feeding people, not landfills, the organization recognizes that recovering food must go hand-in-hand with source reduction in kitchens. Barry Telford, CEO of Universities at Sodexo and a Sodexo Stop Hunger Foundation Board member said, “At Sodexo we take food waste seriously. Source reduction is the first step to eliminating
food waste, followed by feeding our hungry neighbors. We are proud of our partnership with Food Recovery Network, together with hundreds of Sodexo employees working alongside college students to reach this milestone of rescuing 3 million pounds of food.”

FRN’s mission would not be possible without our hunger-fighting partner nonprofits, who accept donations of recovered food and repurpose it to feed those who need it most. Food recovery gives FRN students a chance to demonstrate their leadership skills, while providing perfectly good food to hunger-fighting nonprofits in their communities. Barbara Bronstein, the founder of Second Servings of Houston, said, “We love collaborating with the students at University of Houston’s FRN. They help us gather hundreds of pounds of produce at the Farmers’ Market every Saturday during the school year. The charity that receives the bounty from Second Servings of Houston is so grateful, since access to really fresh produce is often very limited.” The FRN chapter at the University of Houston has recovered more than 34,000 pounds of food.

For Katie Crombez, the Executive Chair of FRN’s Student and Alumni Advisory Board, this milestone represents the culmination of tireless effort put in by FRN student volunteers on the ground. She is proud of this accomplishment, but looking to the future potential of the movement, she knows FRN can recover millions more. “This three million represents the volunteers who made food recovery a priority, the community members who were fed, and the people who change the way they treat food in their daily living after working with FRN; all of which I believe to be the ultimate reach of the FRN movement,” Crombez said.

FRN’s Executive Director, Regina Northouse, said that this milestone shows that the organization has become an established leader in the fight against food waste and hunger. “At any one time, someone in our network is doing a recovery,” Northouse said. “That’s a huge constellation of people doing the right thing with surplus food across this country. It doesn’t matter whether a student tracks two pounds or 2,000 pounds recovered – every recovery matters and can help those in need.”

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 more than 3 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 more than 200 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.

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