



For Immediate Release

### **Foundation Invests in Second Harvest's New Food Rescue Channel**

TORONTO, ON, March 29, 2017 – Second Harvest, Canada's largest food rescue charity, is proud to announce that they are the recipient of \$1.5 million USD from a global foundation to support the launch of a new digital platform for food rescue and delivery, which will be known as foodrescue.ca.

The integrated digital platform will pilot in the GTA, connecting social service agencies with available surplus food. The platform will allow Second Harvest to rescue and deliver more food, focusing on smaller scale donations, adding to its already robust food rescue program. Last year, Second Harvest rescued and delivered over 9.5 million pounds of fresh, healthy surplus food, and is currently tracking at one million pounds a month in 2017.

"We are so grateful for this investment in an innovative solution aimed at feeding more people and reducing food waste," says Debra Lawson, Executive Director, Second Harvest, who notes that the pilot already has the support of six major national retailers and the potential for national scalability.

Second Harvest estimates that approximately 370,000 children, adults and seniors experienced food insecurity in Toronto last year, while over 1 billion pounds of food was wasted. "By connecting food donors directly with agencies," says Lawson, "we are able to ensure that more food gets to those who need it and that it doesn't end up going to waste."

#### **About Second Harvest**

Established in 1985, Second Harvest is the largest food rescue charity in Canada. Second Harvest rescues excess, fresh food that would otherwise go to waste, and delivers that food to more than 225 social service agencies in Toronto, feeding people experiencing hunger.

For interview availability and information, please contact:

Cori MacPhee  
416-408-2594  
corim@secondharvest.ca