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***St. Louisans to Package 350,000 Meals for Hungry Children***

*Commemoration of United Nations World Food Day to Take Place in St. Louis*

**St. Louis, MO, October 5, 2016** – As part of St. Louis World Food Day on Friday, October 14<sup>th</sup>, more than 1,500 St. Louisans will package meals for those challenged by hunger. World Food Day marks the founding of the United Nations' Food & Agriculture Organization and is designed to increase awareness, understanding and informed, year-round action to alleviate hunger.

Across the United States, a growing network of organizations hosts World Food Day commemoration activities ranging from hands-on activities for hunger relief, to academic programming, and opportunities to learn more about the work of farmers in the U.S. and beyond. Globally, more than 150 countries host commemorations to bring hunger challenges into focus.

“A child dies every six seconds from malnutrition and related illnesses,” said Don Soffer, St. Louis World Food Day Board President. “This event is a one-of-a-kind opportunity for people from all over the Midwest to help address the critical need for nutrition among children in Tanzania and throughout Missouri and Illinois.”

St. Louis World Food Day 2016 will be held on October 14<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. at John Burroughs School (755 S. Price Road) in Ladue. Thousands of volunteers will package rice/bean/soy protein meals to be sent to critically malnourished people in sub-Saharan Africa and fortified macaroni and cheese meals that will be distributed in St. Louis and elsewhere in the region. Adults and children (as young as seven with an adult) are invited to be part of teams and assemble packets of nutritious food. Each meal packaged will feed up to six children.

The food is designed to reverse the starvation process, help restore health, and improve mental and physical alertness. The sealed packages have a shelf life of two years. The cost of each life-sustaining meal is approximately 25 cents, which covers the ingredients, packaging, administration and international shipping of the food. St. Louis World Food Day partners, the St. Louis Area Foodbank and Outreach, Inc.,

of Union, IA, will respectively ensure the delivery regionally and to school feeding programs in sub-Saharan Africa.

For additional information or to register to attend, please visit [www.stlwfd.org](http://www.stlwfd.org).

**PARTICIPATING ST. LOUIS WORLD FOOD DAY SPONSORS**

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