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Loudoun Hunger Relief's Beyond Food Campaign Receives Major Gift

Loudoun Hunger Relief is thrilled to announce a $250,000 gift from the Jiten & Sujani Shah Family Charitable Fund. This major gift will support LHR's Beyond Food Capital Expansion efforts. The $3 million capital campaign is funding the construction of a new Community Market and the Loudoun Hunger Relief Community Services Center in Leesburg.

Jiten (Jay) and Sujani (Jen) Shah spoke about their decision to make such a major investment in Loudoun Hunger Relief's expansion, saying "Our family has lived in Loudoun County since 1999 – 15 of those years in Sterling, and then later in Ashburn. We're aware that there are two versions of Loudoun County. The version that makes headlines states that we are one of the richest counties in the country. The version that gets less attention is that many families in our community struggle with food insecurity. We are excited to support Loudoun Hunger Relief as they expand to ensure that all our community is fed. We knew when we were ready to make an investment back into our local community that Loudoun Hunger Relief was the right place – they are a critical partner in the non-profit ecosystem that support Loudoun families".

Loudoun Hunger Relief will open a new best practice, full choice free grocery market at their Leesburg location in the early fall for those in need. The market will be supported with increased warehouse storage, truck bays, and volunteer workspace. A nonprofit services center, housing other non-profits including Loudoun Literacy Council, Loudoun Volunteer Caregivers and Crossroads Jobs. It will also provide outreach space for Loudoun County human service agencies, serving families with more efficiency and one stop access to needed support. The Leesburg expansion will take LHR from 4300 square feet to 13,500 square feet.

Loudoun Hunger Relief President & CEO, Jennifer Montgomery, said, "LHR is incredibly grateful and excited for the investment from Jay and Jen Shah as we work to serve our neighbors in need across the county. They are particularly interested in food access for eastern Loudoun residents and approximately half of the families LHR serves live in eastern Loudoun. Their gift will have impact for decades to come allowing us to serve those in need with dignity."

LHR is nearing the end of construction and planning to open the new center in late September.

About Loudoun Hunger Relief

Loudoun Hunger Relief, Loudoun's leader in emergency food assistance has been serving the Loudoun community since 1991. Last year, LHR distributed 2.4 million pounds of food to about 14,000 Loudoun residents. Nearly 40% of those served are children and another 10% are senior citizens. LHR helps families in Loudoun meet their food needs, serving about 650 to 700 families each week. For more information, please visit www.loudounhunger.org.