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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

A Quiet Crisis Continues

Leesburg, VA, August 25, 2023: Loudoun Hunger Relief (LHR) announced audited fiscal year service numbers today. The numbers tell a sobering story of chronically increased demand for services.

LHR drastically scaled up operations and services beginning in March of 2020. We are now serving more than double the number of people served prior to the pandemic and serving them more frequently. For a short time in early 2022, the need decreased and there was hope that things would get better for Loudoun families. High inflation in food, fuel, consumer goods and rising rents in 2022 and 2023 were cited as major reasons for seeking food relief by many of those seeking services in the past two years. The end of pandemic-era SNAP benefits and relief programs in early 2023 has caused additional hardship for many families. This hardship is visible across our Loudoun community. A recent food poll among Loudoun Food Provider Group members showed most pantries (71%) are continuing to see increased requests for help in recent months.

LHR distributed 2.4 million pounds of food to approximately 14,000 Loudoun residents in fiscal 2023 (July 2022-June 2023). That's about 2 million meals given to families across 170,000 service visits. Over 39% of households served by LHR had never sought services before. This is a 16% increase in Loudoun residents served over fiscal 2022.

President & CEO of Loudoun Hunger Relief, Jennifer Montgomery, emphasized, "It's important to remember the effects of the pandemic, inflation, and rising rents are still being felt by Loudoun's most vulnerable residents. We remain resilient and determined to meet the food needs of our neighbors. We have amazing and sustained support from our Loudoun community, and we're determined to continue serving where and when we're needed."

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.

About Loudoun Food Providers Group

The Loudoun Food Providers Group is a gathering of emergency food providers in Loudoun County. LFPG meets to share information about services, trends, and to gain knowledge of how we can collectively serve our client-base in the most-effective way. Meetings are open to any organization working in food insecurity in Loudoun County. For more information, please email LFPG's facilitators at ehuddleston@loudounhunger.org or kergenbright@dsfp.org.