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Agency Food Distribution • Kids Cafe • Community Kitchen • Brown Bag for the Elderly • Rural Delivery • Mobile Food Pantry

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### KIDS CAFE HAS HEART

SAVANNAH – On Thursday, February 19, at 4:00 p.m., 50 children, ages five to twelve, attending America's Second Harvest of Coastal Georgia's Kids Cafe at J.S. Delaware Center, 1815 Lincoln Street, will honor Heart Month in a unique way. Savannah College of Art and Design volunteer group, Service Opportunities for Students (SOS) will bring each child a Build-a-Bear for the child to construct, placing a tiny angel inside the stuffed bear to represent its heart. Additionally, students will engage in physical activity as part of their nutrition education program for the week.

Mary Jane Crouch, executive director of Second Harvest states, "Collaboration leads to wonderful opportunities for children in our Kids Cafe program. We are able to enhance our feeding services to offer enriching activities because we partner with so many other community organizations." While Second Harvest provides the food for Kids Cafe and program oversight, many of the Kids Cafes are located at City of Savannah community centers, like Delaware. Second Harvest has designated Angie Johnson as Kids Cafe coordinator and is able to provide nutrition education for program participants through an award from SpenserNation's non-profit affiliate, Operation Hungry Child. SCAD's Service Opportunities for Students offers additional support by providing a team of volunteers to interact with the children at Kids Cafe sites, offering them constructive and educational hands-on programs. SOS often provides the materials needed for special projects; for example, they are providing the bears for this project.

Mrs. Crouch commented, "By working together, utilizing talents and resources from different parts of our community, we are able to provide a richer, more rewarding experience for children who are at-risk for hunger in our after-school program. "

Kids Cafe is an after-school feeding and tutoring program for low-income children ages 5-17. Second Harvest has 27 Kids Cafe sites in Chatham County, one in Bryan County, three in Glynn County, two in Liberty County, and two in Toombs County in which more than 2,000 children receive a hot supper. Each child also receives homework assistance or tutoring to improve his or her academic achievement. Many of these children also participate in cultural enrichment activities or team sports to help build positive social skills. Established in 1989 in Savannah, Kids Cafe is now nationwide with more than 1,700 cafes around the country.

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