

**For Immediate Release**

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**Local Children's Nutrition Needs Grow, Demonstrating Impact of Economic Downturn**

*Hunger-Fighting Agency's Expansion will Address Youth's Needs*

**Indianapolis, Indiana, December 1, 2011** – With the Department of Education reporting that more than half of Indiana's children are eligible for free or reduced-price lunches, local agencies are forging creative partnerships to meet kids' nutrition needs. Through a kitchen expansion that will double its capacity, Second Helpings is launching a new partnership to deliver 400 meals to six Boys & Girls Clubs each day throughout Indianapolis.

The \$1 million expansion project will double the capacity of Second Helpings' Hunger Relief Program from 3,000 meals a day to 6,000 meals a day, all within the existing building footprint.

"Right now we have about 4,000 meals per week on a waiting list and even more agencies whose applications are in process," said Jennifer Vigran, CEO of Second Helpings. "The need for our help has never been greater and thanks to United Way of Central Indiana, the Glick Fund of Central Indiana Community Foundation and many others, our staff and volunteers will have the tools they need to help even more children, families and seniors."

As more children and families face insecurity, Second Helpings seeks to be a part of the supportive framework that can end childhood hunger. Currently, half of Second Helpings' 60 partner agencies serve children, including many local community centers, afterschool programs and homeless shelters.

"Many of our Boys & Girls Club members suffer the effects of hunger and lack of proper nutrition daily," said Rick Whitten, executive director of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Indianapolis. "With this partnership some 400 children will not have to worry about where their next meal will come from, which is a struggle no child should face."

"This is a perfect example of the LIVE UNITED ideal in action: When we work together we're able to accomplish far more than any of us can do alone," said Ellen K. Annala, United Way's president and CEO. "In this case, a modest investment from our Capital Fund, along with the gifts of others, will feed hundreds of children and thousands more of our neighbors."

The kitchen expansion project will expand refrigeration and storage, reequip the kitchen, and include upgrades to Second Helpings' delivery fleet. Construction begins December 5 and is expected to last approximately 4 to 6 weeks. During construction, Second Helpings' Food Rescue and Hunger Relief programs are temporarily relocating to the State Fairgrounds.

**About the organization:**

Second Helpings, Inc. is transforming lives through the power of food. Second Helpings accepts donated perishable and overstocked food to prepare nutritious meals for thousands of hungry children and adults every day, and distributes them free of charge through local social service agencies in Greater Indianapolis. Second Helpings also trains unemployed and underemployed adults for meaningful careers in the culinary industry.