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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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All Faiths Food Bank Kicks Off Annual Campaign Against Summer Hunger with New Walk to End Summer Hunger

New Campaign Co-Chairs Terri Vitale and Tommy Bernstein also announced.

Sarasota, FL February 21, 2019 –This year, the Food Bank will kick-off the annual Campaign Against Summer Hunger with a walk across the Ringling Bridge. The first ever *Walk to End Summer Hunger* will be held on March 31st at 8 a.m. at JD Hamel Park. It will launch a six-week dollar for dollar match challenge of raising \$1.4 million from April 1 through May 15 to fund food programs aimed to feed 40,000 children and their younger siblings who are at risk of going hungry over the summer.

The walk is open to the public and to community members of all ages. A \$10 registration fee will include a t-shirt and lite breakfast. Registration is open until March 25th at www.allfaithsfoodbank.org.

We are also pleased to announce new Campaign Co-Chairs Terri Vitale and Tommy Bernstein.

“I am honored to have the opportunity to co-chair the Campaign Against Summer Hunger and its Kick-off Walk on March 31.” said Terri Vitale. “The walk will be a fantastic way to bring excitement and enthusiasm to this effort to support the most vulnerable members of our community - our children and families. All Faiths Food Bank has the expertise and resources to serve our children and provide them the food and meals they so desperately need. We hope the community will rally behind this effort to make sure no child goes hungry this summer.”

“I am excited to co-chair the Campaign for 2019. The Summer Hunger Programs have proven invaluable for the kids who are food challenged in the summer and no longer receiving their regular meals at school. The kickoff walk will be an exciting way to start our public Campaign and energize the community.” said Tommy Bernstein

Lead investors for the 2019 Campaign Against Summer Hunger are the Gulf Coast Community Foundation, the Charles & Margery Barancik Foundation, The Jewish Federation of Sarasota-Manatee, and the Observer Media Group.

To register for the *Walk to End Summer Hunger* or for more information visit www.allfaithsfoodbank.org

About All Faiths Food Bank

All Faiths Food Bank, awarded a consecutive 4-star rating by Charity Navigator, is a member of Feeding America, the hub of hunger relief in Sarasota and DeSoto counties and serves more than 82,000 individuals in need through its member network that includes human services organizations, schools, faith-based and secular organizations, and other groups that serve the community. Programs include the *Mobile Farm Market*, which brings fresh produce to clients, *Mobile Pantries*, which delivers groceries to areas of highest need, the *BackPack Program*, ensuring students have food over weekends and holidays, *School Pantries*, the *Campaign Against Summer Hunger*, raising food and funds to feed children all summer long, and *Cooking Matters*, a six-week series of hands-on cooking, shopping and nutrition education classes for kids, adults and seniors. Last year, All Faiths Food Bank distributed 10.5 million pounds of food equating to 8.75 million meals through 203 pantries, soup kitchens, churches, community centers, schools, and programs. Mission: Together with our partners, we provide healthy solutions to end hunger in our community. For more information, call 941-379-6333 or visit www.allfaithsfoodbank.org.

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