



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Harry K. Foundation, Food Bank of Delaware mark grand opening of Indian River School District school pantry at G.W. Carver Educational Center**

**Frankford, Del.** (October 27, 2014) – Thanks to a generous donation from the Harry K. Foundation, anti-hunger advocates officially cut the ribbon on the new school pantry at the G.W. Carver Educational Center this morning.

Funds were raised at last year's Harry K. Christmas Ball. Support from the Harry K Foundation allowed the food bank to provide 103 children from Sussex County with a backpack full of food for the entire school year and to open nine new school pantries in Sussex County schools, including the one at G.W. Carver.

Through the program, at-risk families with students enrolled in the Indian River School District will be able to access emergency food and hygiene products by visiting the food pantry. The new pantry will offer a variety of nutritious food products and hygiene items. Families will select food based on their household's needs each week. Food for the pantry will be provided by the Food Bank of Delaware and school-wide food drives or community donations.

"Hunger is all around us and it is our civic responsibility to feed our people," said Harry K. Foundation Founder Harry Keswani. "We are happy to work in cooperation with the Food Bank of Delaware and our local schools to feed our children and their families. We ask our local people and business owners to join us by donating to the Harry K. Foundation so that we can bring food pantries to more schools."

"According to Feeding America's Map the Meal Gap study, 18.3 percent of Delaware's children live in food insecure households," said Food Bank of Delaware President and CEO Patricia Beebe. "We are thankful for the Harry K Foundation's support to ensure that families in Sussex County have access to nutritious foods for their household."

Child food insecurity is highest in Sussex County with 20.2 percent of children living in food insecure households.

"I am so happy that we have been able to open this and other pantries in our communities, but our task has only just begun," said Harry K Foundation Spokesman Tim Buckmaster. "No child should go to bed hungry or worry about when the next meal may be. Together we can and will make a difference."

"When our students' basic needs of food, clothing and shelter are not being met, it is very difficult for them to excel at school and for their families to support their education at home," said Indian River School District Superintendent Susan Bunting. Our district parent center was created to provide families with the tools they need to support student achievement - both academically and personally. The food pantry will be a great extension of these efforts and an important resource for our district families."

The second annual Harry K Foundation Christmas Ball will be held on Saturday, December 6 at the Rehoboth Beach Country Club. Tickets are \$250/person and can be purchased by visiting <http://www.harrykfoundation.org/Harry-K-Foundation-Ball.html>. Proceeds will help fight childhood hunger in Sussex County.

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*The Food Bank of Delaware distributes millions of pounds of food and grocery products each year its network of 550 hunger-relief program partners throughout the state and also provides thousands of meals a month for children through the After-School Feeding Program, the Summer Food Service Program and the Backpack Program. The Food Bank's hunger-relief programs directly provide for Delawareans at risk of going without meals each year. For more information about the Food Bank of Delaware, visit [www.fbd.org](http://www.fbd.org) or call (302) 292-1305.*