



For Immediate Release
October 24, 2016

Contact: Jennifer Montgomery
(703) 777-5911 X113

Record Results for Rachel Roberts, Loudoun Hunger Relief's Flower Lady

Leesburg, VA: Loudoun Hunger Relief (LHR), formerly Loudoun Interfaith Relief, is thrilled and honored to be the beneficiary of the fourth year of "the flower stand" on Edward's Ferry Road in Leesburg so generously run by Rachel Roberts. This year, Mrs. Roberts has exceeded even her own lofty goals and has raised more than \$17,000.00 in monetary and 763 pounds of food donations for Loudoun's hungry.

The flower stand effort begins in the dead of winter each year, with seed selection and planning. Flowers are planted in the spring, and the harvest begins in April or May each year and extends through early October. Flowers are carefully tended, watered, gathered and arranged throughout the growing season. Then comes fall cleanup! The flower stand is truly a year-round labor of love.

The flowers give pleasure to the many that stop by the flower stand to pick up an arrangement and leave a donation. The donations collected serve the many in Loudoun who struggle to put food on the table 95 cents out of every dollar raised for Loudoun Hunger Relief is spent on direct services to the most vulnerable residents of our county.

In addition to running the flower stand, a nearly full time job in itself, Mrs. Roberts finds the time and energy to volunteer in the pantry each week, spreading her good will and dedication even further.

Loudoun Hunger Relief recently honored Mrs. Roberts with the inaugural Shining Star Award. The award is for innovative and unique support of the mission of feeding the hungry in Loudoun County. Rachel Roberts is the first recipient of this award; she is a great role model for others who want to find innovative ways to help with the problem of food insecurity and hunger in our community. In presenting the award, Jennifer Montgomery, Executive Director of Loudoun Hunger Relief, said "Rachel Roberts puts in incredible hours to feed the hungry in a beautiful way. Her flower seeds yield food that fills stomachs".

Mrs. Roberts said "I want to thank the many people in our generous community who support the flower stand each year. South Street Under participates by having my arrangements on their tables, and serving as a donation center for LHR. Many of my neighbors support the effort each year. I deeply appreciate the gifts of food and funds that people leave for LHR at the flower stand. It's my mission to support those who are less fortunate, and I'm so glad to have done it so successfully this year!"

About Loudoun Hunger Relief

Loudoun Hunger Relief (formerly Loudoun Interfaith Relief) is the largest food pantry in Loudoun County. Last year LHR provided 1.2 million pounds of food to more than 11,000 individuals through 73,000 visits. 40% of those served are children. LHR distributes food to families six days a week, year round. Loudoun Hunger Relief was voted *Loudoun Chamber of Commerce 2014 Nonprofit of The Year*, *Leesburg Today 2015 Reader's Choice Nonprofit of The Year*, *the Loudoun Times Mirror 2015 Nonprofit of the Year* and *Loudoun Now 2016 Favorite Non-Profit*. For more information on LHR, please visit www.loudounhunger.org.

###



Rachel Roberts with granddaughter Eliza Jane Benn at the flower stand. Courtesy of Rachel Roberts