



For Immediate Release  
October 24, 2017

Contact: Jennifer Montgomery  
(703) 777-5911 X113

## **Another Record Year 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 fifth year of "the flower stand" on Edward's Ferry Road in Leesburg so generously run by Rachel Roberts. More than \$20,000 in monetary donations, and over \$1000 worth of food donations were collected by Mrs. Roberts to benefit Loudoun's hungry. The flower stand wrapped up operations for the year this past week.

The flower stand is a year round project, beginning in the winter with seed selection and planning. Flowers are planted in the spring, and the harvest begins in April or May each year. This year, the stand continued operating through late October. The demands of the garden and the talent involved in arranging the flowers, keep Mrs. Roberts extremely busy.

The flowers give pleasure to the many who 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. She does this year after year, through changing personal demands and family obligations. This year, Mrs. Roberts even kept the stand going through the birth of a new grandbaby, and her son's wedding weekend.

In 2016, Loudoun Hunger Relief honored Mrs. Roberts with the inaugural Shining Star Award, an award for innovative and unique support of the mission of feeding the hungry in Loudoun County. In 2017, LHR has nominated Mrs. Roberts as the Association of Fundraising Professionals Tri-State Chapter Distinguished Volunteer of the Year. Jennifer Montgomery, Executive Director of Loudoun Hunger Relief, said "Rachel Roberts grows love in her garden. The beautiful flowers are both a means to feeding people and a way of drawing attention to the plight of the hungry in our community. We are so very grateful."

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 family, friends and 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 8,000. 40% of those served are children, and another 10% are seniors. 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](http://www.loudounhunger.org).

###



The flower stand on Edwards Ferry Road in Leesburg, Courtesy of Rachel Roberts



Rachel Roberts receives the 2016 Shining Star Award. Pictured with LHR Board President Carol Barbe, and LHR Executive Director Jennifer Montgomery.  
Courtesy of Jessica Monte