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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Tracy Maki, 651-342-5560, tracy.maki@valleyoutreachmn.org

NEW PARTNERSHIP CREATES GREATER FOOD ACCESS IN ST. PAUL'S FROGTOWN NEIGHBORHOOD

St. Paul – On Friday, June 9th, from 3:00 – 5:00 pm, free, fresh food will be given out in St. Paul's Frogtown neighborhood at St. Stephanus Lutheran Church, on the corner of Blair Avenue and Grotto Street North.

Food Rescue Fridays is the result of collaboration with the Frogtown Neighborhood Association (FNA), St. Stephanus, Valley Outreach and Second Harvest Heartland. The organizations have the same goal – to bring another layer of food support to families with a need.

Delinia Parris, Food Equity Specialist, FNA, said, "Summer time is when the community has the most need. While children are out of school, parent's food bill is doubled. When the Sharing Korner food shelf closed, it was the start of the summer last year and it left a gaping hole in the Frogtown community. Our children are the most vulnerable part of our community. We must stand in the gap."

By combining the technical food shelf knowledge of Valley Outreach, the deep community connections of the Frogtown Neighborhood Association and St. Stephanus Lutheran Church, as well as free space at the church, the partners will work with Second Harvest Heartland to give out rescued retail food to households with a food need.

Retail rescue is food donated by grocery stores just a day or two earlier. Inventory is constantly moving and when excess is too much for a store to handle, it is donated to food shelves. "Second Harvest has a robust program to handle all the logistics," commented Tracy Maki, Executive Director at Valley Outreach. "We have used it to meet needs in Stillwater for a long time and we can offer our technical assistance to our colleagues in Frogtown, leveraging their incredible energy."

"This is a great example of organizations partnering together and sharing their strengths to meet the needs of people in our communities struggling to put food on their table," Michelle Heerey, Second Harvest Heartland, Director of Field Services

Lynn Thompson, St. Stephanus, said "We are so excited! The church is already a hub for Youth Farm programs and weekday evening meals for kids (5-6 p.m., M-F, ages 18 and younger) through St. Paul Public Schools this summer. Also on the 1st and 4th Fridays, Keystone Community Services Mobile Market will be here. We will be a welcoming place for families to get different types of food needs met. We are looking for more community volunteers and I invite those interested to email me at goodluna07@gmail.com."

The schedule for the free food distribution is at <http://www.saintstephanus.org>.

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