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Santa Maria Community Services Provides Meals for Students this Summer

CINCINNATI, OH – Over 500,000 children across Ohio live in food-insecure households. That means 1 in 5 children are unsure of where their next meal is coming from and the COVID-19 pandemic has made matters worse. That is why Santa Maria Community Services, Inc. will be partnering with Children's Hunger Alliance (CHA) to provide meals for children in the Price Hill community this summer.

Santa Maria is excited about this first-time partnership with Children's Hunger Alliance, a statewide nonprofit dedicated to ending childhood hunger in Ohio. Meals will be delivered to participating families from June 16 through August 14, 2020.

In 2019, Children's Hunger Alliance helped provide 9.5 million nutritious meals and snacks to hungry children throughout the state of Ohio. CHA is serving free grab-and-go meals to children this summer at over 150 sites to ensure children impacted by the economic fallout of the pandemic continue to have access to meals. The meals provided to Santa Maria will feed 90 children.

"Children should never have to wonder where their next meal will come from," said Santa Maria President and CEO H.A. Musser, Jr. "We want our children to succeed and that begins with proper nutrition. We appreciate this partnership with Children's Hunger Alliance to help provide children the advantage of having healthy meals so that they can have the energy to participate in summer activities to help keep them active and thriving."

"Children's Hunger Alliance is proud to collaborate with Santa Maria Community Services to provide nutritious meals to the children they serve during the pandemic. We know that the need for meals has never been more critical than it is right now. That's why CHA is sponsoring over 150 emergency meal sites across the state to help support Ohio's children," said Jared Buerger, Director of Afterschool Nutrition, Children's Hunger Alliance.

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Santa Maria Community Services, Inc. is an independent, 501(c)3 nonprofit organization originally founded by the Sisters of Charity in 1897 and place-based in Cincinnati Ohio's Price Hill community. Santa Maria provides more than 3,000 individuals with educational tools and resources to build strong families, promote healthy residents, and foster neighborhood revitalization. Our Price Hill Family Centers provide a welcoming environment and the coaching, support, and flexibility to assist families to achieve their identified goals toward stabilization and self-sufficiency. Our mission is to be a catalyst and advocate for Greater Price Hill families to attain their educational, financial, and health goals. Our vision is for Greater Price Hill to be a vibrant, thriving, and self-sustaining community.

Founded in 1970, **Children's Hunger Alliance** (CHA) is a statewide nonprofit organization dedicated to ending childhood hunger in Ohio. Through their work, CHA provides healthy meals and snacks to food-insecure children, advocates for legislation to improve the welfare of Ohio's youngest citizens, and teaches nutrition and physical education to those they serve. Follow CHA on <u>Facebook</u>, <u>Instagram</u>, <u>Twitter</u> or visit <u>childrenshungeralliance.org</u>.