



**For immediate release:
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Check Out Hunger begins at Tops to support Foodlink

Tops also pledges donation to support furloughed workers during shutdown

ROCHESTER – Starting Sunday, shoppers at Tops Friendly Markets can add a little extra to their grocery bill to support food-insecure families in our region.

This year's Check Out Hunger campaign with Tops begins Jan. 27 and extends through Feb. 16. Customers have the option of adding \$2, \$3, or \$5 to their total when they check out. The money is donated to Foodlink, the Feeding America food bank that serves 10 counties in the Finger Lakes region.

“Check Out Hunger is a vital source of funds for Foodlink, which – alongside hundreds of community partners and member agencies – serves thousands of food-insecure individuals every day,” said Julia Tedesco, President & CEO of Foodlink. “We’re grateful to be part of such a giving community, and thankful to Tops for providing this opportunity for shoppers to donate.”

More than 150 Tops markets across New York, Pennsylvania and Vermont participate in Check Out Hunger, which has raised nearly \$4 million since 2006. Foodlink and eight other food banks benefit from the campaign.

“Eradicating hunger and assisting our fellow neighbors in need is part of Tops core mission so supporting this effort on an annual basis is something that we gladly stand behind,” said Frank Curci, Chairman of the Board, and Chief Executive Officer for Tops Friendly Markets.

This year, with a government shutdown lasting more than a month and impacting many individuals and families in the Rochester region, Foodlink is working together with Tops to assist furloughed workers in our community.

Tops just announced that for every donation of \$2, \$3 or \$5 made during the Checkout Hunger campaign, Tops is committed to donating additional meals for a furloughed neighbor during this time of need.

"We know this is a trying time for many Americans and Tops is dedicated to helping our fellow neighbors," Curci said. "We recognize the need is pressing and so Tops is advancing the donation so that we can immediately work with the food banks and their outreach to these federally-employed families while they need it the most."

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About Foodlink

Foodlink is a community food resource center and the Feeding America food bank serving Allegany, Genesee, Livingston, Monroe, Ontario, Orleans, Seneca, Wayne, Wyoming, and Yates counties. For 40 years, we have leveraged the power of food to transform lives, end hunger and build healthier communities. Through good stewardship, innovation and collaboration, Foodlink mobilizes a diverse network of partners and stakeholders to eradicate both the symptoms and root causes of hunger.

Our suite of food access programs provides new access points to nutritious and affordable food in underserved communities. Our team of nutrition educators empowers people at risk of diet-related illness with the skills and knowledge to make healthy choices. Our food banking operations distribute millions of pounds of food to a network of hundreds of human service agencies throughout our service area. The Foodlink Community Kitchen prepares and delivers thousands of meals daily for Rochester children, supports our regional agricultural economy by slicing locally grown apples, and hosts a one-of-a-kind career empowerment program to train individuals with barriers to employment for careers in the regional food industry. Learn more about how we are creating healthy futures for every community we serve at www.foodlinkny.org, or follow us on Facebook, Twitter or Instagram at @foodlinkny.

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