MEDIA RELEASE

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Partnerships Key in Battling Childhood Hunger in Arkansas

LITTLE ROCK, AR – (May 31, 2016) Nationally recognized expert on hunger in America, Joel Berg, was joined at the Hillary Rodham Clinton Children’s Library & Learning Center by anti-hunger advocates and representatives from the Arkansas Hunger Relief Alliance, Arkansas No Kid Hungry campaign, Central Arkansas Library System, Children’s Hospital, PepsiCo Food for Good and the Arkansas Dream Center to see first hand the impact partnerships are having in fighting childhood hunger in central Arkansas.

Patty Barker, Arkansas No Kid Hungry campaign director, illustrated the reach of these partnerships by explaining the role each organization plays in feeding kids in the library’s neighborhood. “The library is a year-round meal site for afterschool and summer programs, Arkansas Dream Center is the sponsor, PepsiCo Food for Good is the vendor and delivery agent that provides USDA approved meals to this and other sites, the Department of Human Services is the state agency and No Kid Hungry is the grantor and collaborator. And, these kinds of partnerships are happening all over the state.”

Berg applauded the organizations for their cooperative efforts in finding solutions to hunger. He pointed to the state’s consistently high ranking in child and household hunger, calling for leadership in Congress to adequately address hunger in America. Said Berg, “You can’t just go to a food bank for a ribbon cutting and then turn around and vote to cut funding for child nutrition programs. That’s unacceptable. We need real leadership.”

The facility tour continued into the family kitchen where the staff of Children’s Hospital also offers Cooking Matters classes at the library. Cooking Matters is an evidence based curriculum teaching kids and
adults from low-income families how to shop for and prepare nutritious meals on a budget.

The group also visited the library’s learning garden where children and their families learn about different kinds of produce and how to prepare it at home. Again, partnerships benefitting the long-term needs of the community were on display.

“Partnerships are crucial in assuring kids have access to healthy food year-round,” Barker said. “The Arkansas Hunger Relief Alliance and Arkansas No Kid Hungry campaign are proud to be part of this remarkable group.”

Learning Garden at Hillary Rodham Clinton Children’s Library & Learning Center.

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**About The Arkansas Hunger Relief Alliance**

Arkansas Hunger Relief Alliance, lead partner in Arkansas for the No Kid Hungry campaign, is a non-profit collaborative network of more than 480 hunger relief organizations across Arkansas. Our founding members include the Arkansas Foodbank in Little Rock, the Food Bank of Northeast Arkansas in Jonesboro, Harvest Regional Food Bank in Texarkana, Food Bank of North Central Arkansas in Norfork, Northwest Arkansas Food Bank in Bethel Heights and River Valley Regional Food Bank in Fort Smith. The Alliance is dedicated to reducing hunger through direct relief, education and advocacy. We invite you to visit www.ARhungeralliance.org for details on hunger relief programs, donor and volunteer opportunities.

**About the No Kid Hungry campaign**

No child should grow up hungry in America, but one in five children struggles with hunger. Share Our Strength’s No Kid Hungry campaign is ending childhood hunger in this nation by ensuring all children get the healthy food they need, every day. By connecting kids in need with available USDA nutrition programs and teaching their families how to cook healthy, affordable meals, the No Kid Hungry campaign surrounds children with healthy food where they live, learn and play.

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