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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Foundation for MetroWest Launches \$55,000 Summer Hunger Challenge; All Gifts Made in July to the MetroWest Hunger Relief Fund Matched up to \$55,000**

**July 6, 2015 (Natick, MA)** — School's out for the summer, which for many kids means sunny days snacking on watermelon, making s'mores at summer camp and trips out for ice cream. But for nearly 20,000 MetroWest school children it means no longer having access to vital in-school food programs such as free and reduced lunch. Throughout the MetroWest region, the reality is that many children, as well as elders, individuals with disabilities and those in emergency situations will struggle this summer and in the coming year finding enough to eat. The MetroWest community has a strong history of neighbors helping neighbors, but there's still much more that we need to do to ensure access to food for all.

Five years ago, the Foundation for MetroWest, along with many of its dedicated fundholders established the MetroWest Hunger Relief Fund, which is one of the best avenues for putting an end to hunger in the place we call home. Supporting your town's food pantry and community supper *is* important; however, a solely local approach is simply not enough to end a regional problem. Through our work with area service providers, the Foundation has discovered that individuals often visit a variety of different food pantries in their area—not just the one in their hometown—to put food on the table each night. It is clear from our research that it's not enough to support single towns; we have to support the entire region to truly make a difference.

This July, join us in tackling regional hunger head on. Your donation to the MetroWest Hunger Relief Fund will be matched all month long up to \$55,000. Donations can be made online through our website or by mailing a check to the Foundation for MetroWest office at 3 Eliot Street in Natick, MA. If mailing a check, please write "MetroWest Hunger Relief Fund" in the memo line.

The need is great and the time is now. Please consider making a donation today. Together, we can make a world of difference in our own backyard.

About the MetroWest Hunger Relief Fund: Over the past five years, the MetroWest Hunger Relief Fund has distributed over \$300,000 to food support agencies throughout the 33 cities and towns we serve. With your help, in 2014 we granted over \$87,000 to 40+ organizations across the region.

About Foundation for MetroWest

Established in 1995, the Foundation for MetroWest is the only community foundation serving the 33 cities and towns in the region. We promote philanthropy in the region, help donors maximize the impact of their local giving, serve as a resource for local nonprofits and enhance the quality of life for all our residents. Since inception, the Foundation has granted \$10 million to charitable organizations and currently stewards more than \$15 million in charitable assets for current needs and future impact. To learn more, please visit [www.foundationformetrowest.org](http://www.foundationformetrowest.org) or call 508-647-2260.

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