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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Food Bank's Green Grocer makes last stops
Program ending on November 23

PITTSBURGH, PA (Friday, November 19, 2021) – Green Grocer, Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank's (the Food Bank) mobile market program designed to create easier access to fresh, healthy foods in communities lacking grocery stores, is slated for its last stops on November 23. Prior to the pandemic, for some Allegheny County communities, the program helped bring fresh foods into their communities and helped prove that grocery stores could thrive in these communities.

"We're really proud of how the Green Grocer program helped our neighbors living in communities without grocery stores," shared Lisa Scales, president and CEO of the Food Bank. "As a direct result of this program, a grocery store opened in Clairton where there previously hadn't been one and other retailers are now interested in serving these communities."

Circumstances such as the pandemic, among others, have led to grocery delivery and retail grocery options being more widely available in many of the same communities served by Green Grocer. In the past year, SNAP EBT started to be able to be processed online. Finally, other organizations are now endeavoring to introduce nontraditional grocery retail options, such as mobile markets, to low-access neighborhoods in the Food Bank's service area.

"We have been approached by other organizations about potentially taking over Green Grocer, as well as assisting them as they plan out new community mobile market programs tentatively set to roll out in early 2022," Scales said. "A big factor in our decision is knowing there are new mobile options on the horizon that will serve the same, if not an even larger population."

Staff impacted by this decision will be retained in other capacities on the Food Bank's Distributions Team.

"I want to thank everyone who has worked on or contributed to the success of the Green Grocer program over the years and has helped to prove to others that a mobile market solution can be attractive in many of the neighborhoods we serve," Scales said.

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About Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank

Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank is a nonprofit organization that distributes food for more than 45 million meals annually across 11 counties in southwestern Pennsylvania through a network of more than 850 agencies, partners and programs. The Food Bank was founded in 1980 and is a member of Feeding America, the leading domestic hunger-relief charity in the U.S. For more information on hunger in our region or how to get involved, visit pittsburghfoodbank.org.