



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Amber Williams
(404) 861-5567
awilliams@golinharris.com

SMITHFIELD AND THE UFCW TO DONATE 120,000 SERVINGS OF PROTEIN TO FOOD BANK OF NORTHWEST INDIANA AS PART OF 'FEEDING THE HUNGRY' TOUR

Tour Donations Now Total 13.1 Million Servings

HIGHLAND, Ind. (November 15, 2011) – With food banks and non-profits facing record requests for services, sourcing and providing protein is often a challenge. To help meet the high demand for much-needed protein, Smithfield and the United Food and Commercial Workers Union (UFCW) Tuesday, Nov. 15th at 10:30 a.m. will deliver 120,000 servings (30,000 pounds) of protein to the Food Bank of Northwest Indiana. (Donation to take place at the Strack & Van Til Warehouse, 2244 45th Street)

Strack & Van Til Supermarkets, a longstanding retail partner of Smithfield and a dedicated supporter of the Food Bank of Northwest Indiana, will also participate in the program.

“We're very excited and thankful for this wonderful donation, especially since it comes just in time for the holidays,” stated Angie Williams, Executive Director for the Food Bank of Northwest Indiana. “The timing is perfect as our pantries and soup kitchens are gearing up for the holiday season and the influx of people that will be seeking assistance. There are so many people in Northwest Indiana who can't afford to put a holiday meal on their table, and this donation will allow them to do that. This is a time of year that is all about giving and goodwill, and this Smithfield and UFCW donation really highlights that.”

Feeding the Hungry is a joint program of the UFCW and Smithfield to donate and help deliver 20 million servings of protein over three years to food banks around the country. The partnership is designed to bring much-needed assistance to the growing number of people facing hunger and food insecurity in our communities.

“Smithfield is proud to continue the second year of our hunger relief tour. We're well on our way to feeding 20 million people,” said Dennis Pittman, Public Affairs Director for Smithfield. “We hope to continue increasing awareness and encourage individuals and companies to donate to their local food banks.”

“Last year we fed over 6 million people and as we take our nationwide Feeding the Hungry Tour on the road for the second year, the UFCW is committed to ensuring that families across the country have the relief and the opportunities they need to weather the current economic crises,” said Joe Hansen, United Food and Commercial Workers Union (UFCW) International President. “All across the country, UFCW members are on the frontlines of efforts to improve and strengthen their communities, and this partnership reflects their unwavering commitment to protect and advocate for families during tough times.”

Feeding the Hungry is part of the UFCW's renewed commitment to lead communities in finding solutions based on shared responsibility. UFCW members have a long history of helping those in need, not only for the well-being of workers, but also for the broader community, especially in difficult times.

“Strack & Van Til Supermarkets are thrilled to be a part of this record setting donation of protein through Smithfield and the UFCW,” stated Joe Kolavo, VP of Perishable Operations for Strack & Van Til Supermarkets. “We are a proud supporter of the Food Bank of Northwest Indiana and are committed to helping them reach their goal of ending hunger in our communities.”

More than 50 million people in the U.S. daily experience hunger. One in six adults and one in four children know what it is like to go to bed hungry or to have to decide between buying food and paying for other necessities such as utility or medical bills.

Smithfield Foods and its independent operating companies have a long history of stocking food banks, supporting after-school nutrition programs and providing food relief in the wake of natural disasters. In January 2008, Smithfield established their Helping Hungry Homes™ initiatives to help ensure that American families in need do not go hungry. Feeding the Hungry is one of Smithfield's Helping Hungry Homes™ initiatives.

About Food Bank of Northwest Indiana

The Food Bank of Northwest Indiana is located in Gary and supplies food to over 100 pantries and soup kitchens in Lake and Porter Counties. In addition to distributing food to their member agencies the Food Bank also runs the Backpack, Kid's Café, Mobile Pantry, Food Rescue and Pantry on the Go programs and offers pantry referrals. Last year the Food Bank distributed over 4.7 million pounds of food, and served over 5,000 individuals a week.

About Strack & Van Til Supermarkets

Strack & Van Til is a leading independent retail grocer serving Northwest Indiana and the greater Chicagoland area, providing customers with great service and honest values since 1927. The company believes in being an important business partner in all of the communities it serves. Throughout the years, the company has grown from a single family-owned neighborhood grocery store, to operating over 30 locations in two states employing over 4,800 associates. It operates stores under three banners in Indiana and Illinois: Strack & Van Til, Ultra Foods and Town & Country. Strack & Van Til has stayed true to their commitment of valuing their associates and delivering exceptional levels of personal service at the lowest possible prices.

About the United Food and Commercial Workers Union

The United Food and Commercial Workers International Union (UFCW) represents more than 1.3 million workers, primarily in the retail and meatpacking, food processing and poultry industries. The UFCW protects the rights of workers and strengthens America's middle class by fighting for health care reform, immigration reform, living wages, retirement security, safe working conditions and the right to unionize so that working men and women and their families can realize the American Dream. For more information about the UFCW's effort to protect workers' rights and strengthen America's middle class, visit www.ufcw.org.

About Smithfield Packing www.Smithfield.com

The Smithfield Packing Company, Inc., was founded in 1936 by Joseph W. Luter and his son, Joseph W. Luter, Jr. Primary lines of business include fresh pork, smoked meats, bacon, cooked hams and hot dogs for retail, foodservice, and deli channels. The company exports products to approximately 30 countries. In addition to the Smithfield brand, its Gwaltney, Esskay, and Cumberland Gap products are among the leaders in their respective markets.

###

Media Contacts:

Smithfield
Amber Williams
Office: (404) 880-4600
Cell: (404) 861-5567
awilliams@golinharris.com

UFCW
Marc Gombri
Office: (202) 223-3111
Cell: (202) 257-8771

mgombri@ufcw.org
**Strack & Van Til
Supermarkets**
Joe Kolavo
Office: (219) 865-4165
kolavojp@s-vt.com

**Food Bank of Northwest
Indiana**
Megan Sikes

Office: (219) 980-1777
msikes@foodbanknwi.org