

PRESS RELEASE

13-year-old Mt. Olive Student Recognized by Sodexo Stop Hunger Foundation for Local Hunger-Fighting Efforts

Brooke Mackenzie Hinson started her own food pantry and fundraised more than \$66,000 to donate more than 200,000 pounds of food to those in need

MT. OLIVE, N.C., June 12, 2017 – In 2015, Brooke Mackenzie Hinson founded the [Make a Difference](#) food pantry to involve her local community in the fight against hunger. Today, the pantry distributes several hundred meals to families every week, and Hinson’s mobile food pantry brings meals to homebound seniors. She also works with local schools to stock an emergency food pantry, provide healthy snacks for an afterschool program and deliver backpacks filled with food to students who need them. To date, she has distributed more than 214,000 pounds of food, provided 37,000 weekend meals for children and delivered more than 1,900 meals to seniors. In addition, she raised more than \$66,000 for rent, gas and food, and collected more than 15,000 pounds of food.

For her efforts, Sodexo Stop Hunger Foundation awarded Hinson one of five 2017 Stephen J. Brady Stop Hunger Scholarships. Hinson is being presented with her scholarship during an awards ceremony in the Washington, D.C., metro area on June 12, 2017.

The Stephen J. Brady Stop Hunger Scholarship program recognizes students who drive awareness and mobilize youth to be catalysts for innovative models that provide solutions to eliminate hunger in America. Scholarship winners receive a \$5,000 scholarship and a \$5,000 grant for their hunger-related charity. Sodexo Stop Hunger Foundation also recognized 19 Regional Honorees with a \$1,000 grant for their hunger-relief charities.

“I was inspired to get involved in the fight against hunger when I did research for a 4-H speech and saw how many people in my community and state suffer from food insecurity,” Hinson said. “I wanted to open a food pantry offering nutritious choices that would help people live a healthier lifestyle, and I wanted everyone to feel welcome, not embarrassed to be at a pantry.”

With her grant, Hinson hopes to purchase a mobile kitchen, so she can reach new communities and serve hot meals to those that could not access them otherwise. A mobile kitchen will also enable her to deliver more nonperishable food items and expand her summer feeding program, Kenzie’s Kids Cafe.

“Hunger impacts 13 million children in America,” said Robert A. Stern, President of Sodexo Stop Hunger Foundation. “By recognizing and empowering America’s youth who are active in the fight against hunger, we can help make a difference in communities across the country while building a foundation to fight hunger for years to come.”

The four remaining national 2017 Stephen J. Brady Stop Hunger scholars (AKA, The 2017 Hunger Squad) are:

- Sophie Edwards, age 14, Marietta, Ga.
- Robert Alex Eimers, age 15, New Haven, Mich.
- Jack Griffin, age 19, Duluth, Ga.
- Shiaoching Tse, age 18, Apex, N.C.

The 2017 Hunger Squad is competing for an additional \$5,000 to further their efforts. The competition begins at 8 a.m. on Monday, June 12th. Voting closes at 11:59 p.m. on Monday, June 19th. The winner will be announced on Tuesday. Anyone can vote once a day. Visit tinyurl.com/hungersquad to vote for your favorite Hunger Squad Member.

The Stephen J. Brady Stop Hunger Scholarship is named for the Sodexo Stop Hunger Foundation’s founder and former president, Steve Brady, who was an unstoppable champion in the fight to end hunger. Sodexo Stop Hunger Foundation works to ensure that every child in the United States, especially those most at risk, grows up with dependable access to enough nutritious food to enable them to lead a healthy, productive life. Visit [Sodexo Stop Hunger Foundation on Facebook](#) and follow us on Twitter [@StopHungerUSA](#).

Sodexo in North America

[Sodexo USA](#) is an American business that is part of a global, Fortune 500 company with a presence in 80 countries. Delivering more than 100 services across North America that enhance organizational performance, contribute to local communities and improve quality of life, Sodexo is a leading provider of sustainable, integrated facilities management and food service operations. It employs 123,000 Americans at 12,500 sites across the country and indirectly supports tens of thousands of additional U.S. jobs through its annual purchases of \$9.2 billion in goods and services from small to large American businesses. In support of local communities across the U.S., [Sodexo Stop Hunger Foundation](#) has contributed more than \$29 million since 1999 to help children in America impacted by hunger.

###

Learn more about Sodexo at its corporate blog, [Sodexo Insights](#).

Contact: Sam Wells, Sodexo, Inc., (301) 987-4893, samuel.wells@sodexo.com