

Best-Selling Author David Baldacci Teams with America's Second Harvest: Feeding Body & Mind

Washington, DC, USA – 10/17/06 – David Baldacci, one of America's most popular writers, along with his family foundation -- Wish You Well Foundation -- has teamed with America's Second Harvest - The Nation's Food Bank Network to establish **Feeding Body & Mind** -- an exciting and innovative initiative.

The mission of **Feeding Body & Mind** is to collect new and used books to be distributed to clients seeking food assistance at charities served by American's Second Harvest members, thus helping to feed both the body and the mind.

At David Baldacci's personal appearances and book signing events (schedule found at www.DavidBaldacci.com), fans will have the opportunity to donate books to the Feeding Body & Mind initiative.

Research indicates that even mild under nutrition experienced by young children during critical periods of growth may lead to reductions in physical growth and affect brain development (*The Links Between Nutrition and Cognitive Development of Children*, 1998, Tufts University School of Nutrition Science and Policy.)

“Empty bellies and undernourished minds constitute our two greatest challenges as a country. Food fills the first need, books the second. Together with America's Second Harvest, the Wish You Well Foundation is attacking these problems head-on, for a better America, for a better world,” said David Baldacci, author of #1 *New York Times* best-selling novels such as *Absolute Power*, *Split Second*, *The Camel Club* and his latest thriller, *The Collectors*.

“We are grateful to David Baldacci and everyone involved in this exciting new program encouraging reading among the clients we serve, especially children,” said Vicki Escarra, president and CEO of America's Second Harvest.

Hachette Book Group USA (www.hbgusa.com) joins the effort through underwriting the project as well as supplying a substantial number of children's books to each of the participating area Food Banks.

Maureen Egen, Deputy Chairman & Publisher, Hachette Book Group USA stated, “Every book lover believes in sharing with others the enjoyment of reading and David has formed a unique partnership to share books with those most in need. We are very proud to be a part of the Feeding Body & Mind project and hope to convince other publishers to join in the effort as well. I should note that the booksellers we have already approached have been extremely supportive.”

For additional information contact Deborah Hocutt, Administrative Coordinator: Wish You Well Foundation at 703-476-6032 or email Deborah@WishYouWellFoundation.org or Ross Frasier, Media Relations Manager at 312-641-6422 or email rfraser@secondharvest.org.

Additional project information can be found at www.FeedingBodyAndMind.com.

Founded by Michelle & David Baldacci in 1999, the Wish You Well Foundation supports family literacy in the United States by fostering and promoting the development of new and existing literacy and educational programs. Visit their Web site at www.WishYouWellFoundation.org.

America's Second Harvest – The Nation's Food Bank Network is the largest charitable domestic hunger-relief organization in the country with a Network of more than 200 Member food banks and food-rescue organization serving all 50 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico. The American's Second Harvest Network secures and distributes more than 2 billion pounds of donated food and grocery products annually; and supports approximately 50,000 local charitable agencies operating more than 94,000 programs including food pantries, soup kitchens, emergency shelters, after-school programs and Kids Cafes. Last year, the American's Second Harvest Network provided food assistance to more than 25 million low-income hungry people in the United States, including 9 million children and nearly 3 million seniors. For more on the America's Second Harvest Network, please visit www.secondharvest.org.

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