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Southeastern Food Bank “Lights Up” with New Solar Panels Donated by Freedom Solar Power

Freedom Solar’s Gift of Renewable Energy Enables Southeastern Food Bank to Feed More Hungry Families in Central Florida this Holiday Season

ORLANDO, FLORIDA—February 16. Freedom Solar Power, a nationally-leading residential and commercial solar power provider, today announced the completion of its complimentary installation of a \$113,000 solar array at the Winter Garden, Florida, headquarters of Southeastern Food Bank, about 15 miles west of Orlando. Freedom’s donation will help offset the nonprofit organization’s energy costs and fuel its mission of feeding 50,000 food-insecure children, elderly and families in Central Florida this holiday season.

“We are honored to partner with Southeastern Food Bank to support their vital mission of feeding the hungry in Central Florida,” said Freedom Solar CEO Bret Biggart. “With rising inflation costs in 2022, more families are struggling to afford basic food necessities, making this a critical time to support those in need as we enter the holiday giving season.”

Freedom Solar recently donated and completed the installation of 71 SunPower® solar panels on the rooftop of the dry storage warehouse at Southeastern Food Bank’s headquarters, capable of producing more than 47,200 kilowatt-hours (kWh) of electricity every year. That is enough clean, renewable energy to power 70% of the nonprofit’s annual energy use. Southeastern Food Bank will save \$236,000 in energy costs over the lifetime of the system, and will make it possible to feed on average an additional 800 local families. The new solar installation was completed with zero out-of-pocket cost to Southeastern Food Bank.

“We are grateful for Freedom Solar’s generosity and its support for our mission, and this could not come at a better time as we work to serve those in need this holiday season,” said Southeastern Food Bank President Mark Anthony. “By eliminating our rising electricity costs, we expect to be able to put \$10,000 more into the community this year, expanding our services to feed hundreds more people across the 26 counties that depend on us. I want to thank Bret and his team for helping make that possible.”

Anthony’s commitment to solar began when he retained Freedom Solar to install panels on his own home. After seeing the benefits of solar first-hand, he became interested in installing panels at the food bank. “Southeastern Food Bank was interested in buying solar, but after meeting Mark and learning about how he’s helping a community we also serve, Freedom Solar decided to donate all panels and installation,” said Biggart. By going solar, Southeastern Food Bank will have lower and more predictable operating expenses for years, ensuring the sustainability of their mission for the long-term future.

Southeastern Food Bank provides food and counseling for more than 88,000 families and individuals in need across Florida and Alabama through their partnerships with nonprofits outreach programs. It serves all types of people and organizations, including low-income households; those who are homeless, unemployed or disabled; alcohol and drug rehabilitation centers; children’s homes; and

senior citizen organizations — all at no charge to the recipients. In 2021 alone, Southeastern Food Bank gave away 9.2 million pounds of food and served 529,000 families.

Freedom Solar has also developed a referral program through which Freedom will donate \$500 to a local food bank for every new residential customer and \$1,000 for every business customer who goes solar with them to further help the Food Bank serve those in need and continue to give back to the community. Those interested may visit <https://FreedomSolarPower.com/SFB> to schedule a free solar estimate for their home or business. Once the installation is complete, Freedom Solar will make the donation.

As solar energy becomes more affordable and accessible, nonprofit and charitable organizations across the country are actively moving toward reducing their carbon footprint, both in infrastructure and practice. Solar provides more reliable energy for their volunteers and guests, while increasing net operating income. And it can be a powerful marketing tool, as the community continues to embrace sustainability.

"We are grateful for the opportunity to help organizations such as Southeastern Food Bank go solar, and we anticipate helping many more," said Biggart. "Together, we can make sure families have plenty of food this winter, replacing the ache of hunger with sustenance. And at the same time, we are helping move toward a cleaner, more sustainable environment."

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About Freedom Solar

Founded in 2007, Freedom Solar is an industry leader in turnkey solar installations, providing high-quality, cost-effective, reliable solar solutions for residential and commercial markets nationwide. Headquartered in Austin, Texas, Freedom Solar also has operations in Colorado, Florida, Virginia, and North Carolina. A Tesla Powerwall Certified Installer and the only SunPower® Master Dealer in Texas, Colorado, and Florida, the firm has installed more than 154 megawatts of solar panels since 2007, ranking as the tenth-largest solar installer in the US and the third-largest in Texas. Freedom Solar has completed projects for numerous national and multinational corporate clients, including Whole Foods Market, Shake Shack, Office Depot, Holiday Inn Express, Home2 Suites by Hilton, The University of Texas at Austin and numerous automotive dealerships, such as Alfa Romeo, BMW, Chevrolet, Ford, Maserati, Subaru and Toyota. For more information, visit <https://www.freedomssolarpower.com> or follow @freedomssolarpwr on Twitter and @freedom_solar_power on Instagram.

About Southeastern Food Bank

For over 30 years, Southeastern Food Bank has served the state of Florida and Alabama with outreach in 26 counties bringing food, supplies and a message of hope to low-income households, the homeless, the unemployed and disabled, alcohol and drug rehabilitation centers, children's homes and senior citizen organizations at no charge to the recipients. Southeastern Food Bank is more than a food bank; it is a critical resource for those in need who have fallen through the cracks of society and a place of true sustenance for body and spirit. The work of the food bank is made possible by volunteers, nonprofit organizations, partners and like-minded individuals who understand and care about their community's needs. Southeastern Food Bank is a member of the Association of Independent Food Banks Inc. and a distributor site for Feed the Children and Convoy of Hope. For more information, visit <https://Southeasternfoodbank.com/hungers-impact>.