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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NYS ATTORNEY GENERAL PROVIDES \$200,000 GRANT FOR FOODLINK

Program to expand warehouse processing systems and increase the amount of accessible food to needy New Yorkers.

Foodlink is pleased to announce that it has been awarded a \$200,000 grant from the NYS Office of the Attorney General as a result of a settlement with multiple vitamin manufacturers. The settlement funds were made available to support organizations that provide food relief efforts in New York State. This award will assist Foodlink's efforts to streamline its warehouse operations, including its donated food processing system.

The "Warehouse Processing Expansion" project was chosen as Foodlink's approach to Vitagrant funding in order to ensure that Foodlink continues to be able to filter as much donated food product through its operations and feed as many people as possible. Without the ability to process, inventory, sort and distribute this product, the needs of the 150,000 individuals relying on emergency food in our region each year would simply not be met. The economic decline and rising costs of health care have had a dramatic effect on the population Foodlink serves, increasing food through-put by 32% since 2005. This past year, Foodlink distributed 11.4 million pounds of food – a 20% increase from the year prior.

"We are very grateful that the Office of the Attorney General and Governor-Elect Andrew Cuomo has committed to supporting food banks in New York State with these settlement funds," said Tom Ferraro, Executive Director and Founder of Foodlink. "The money will go towards funding an expansion project that will allow Foodlink to streamline its operations, thereby increasing the amount of food available to our 10-county service area. Entrusting New York State food banks to act as a conduit ensures that these funds impact as many New Yorkers as possible during a time of increased need."

The Vitagrant award is a final distribution from settlements for anti-trust violations by vitamin manufacturers in two cases, Scanlan v. F. Hoffman-LaRoche Ltd. and In re Vitamins Antitrust Litigation.

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Foodlink, the regional food bank, provides food, nutrition, education, and resources in Central and Western New York. As a member of Feeding America, Foodlink rescues and redistributes over 11 million pounds of food to 450 human service agencies. While the distribution of food to reduce hunger remains the foundation of Foodlink's activities, the vision is more holistic: to end hunger, build self-sufficiency, and foster nutritional wellness.