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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Food Bank partners with APALA Pittsburgh to amplify AAPI voices**

**Duquesne, PA** (April 27, 2021) – Today, as part of its Food Justice is Social Justice initiative/campaign, Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank (the Food Bank) is partnering with the Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance (APALA) Pittsburgh.

APALA Pittsburgh serves the Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI) community, a community that has historically faced racism and is once again facing anti-Asian violence amidst the COVID-19 pandemic. This partnership involves a total digital media takeover for the day.

According to the Asian Pacific Islander Political Alliance, reports of anti-Asian hate rose by 150 percent in 2020 with nearly 3,800 incidents of anti-Asian hate recorded in the United States from March 19, 2020 to February 28, 2021.

“As a member of the southwestern Pennsylvania region, we are committed to ensuring all of our neighbors have fair and equitable treatment and access to services,” said Lisa Scales, president and CEO of the Food Bank. “We are thankful for the work of APALA Pittsburgh and are delighted to partner with them today to raise up their voices and bring more attention to the issues facing the Asian American community.”

APALA Pittsburgh is a member of the national organization of AAPI union members and allies advancing worker, immigrant and civil rights.

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, APALA has worked to alleviate stresses and provide resources for those most affected. In the past year, it has provided funds for AAPI workers during the height of the pandemic and has devoted most of its efforts since the vaccine rolled out to helping AAPI’s in Pittsburgh access vaccinations.

Following the Atlanta-area spa shooting, APALA Pittsburgh partnered with the ECAASU: East Coast Asian American Student Union at the University of Pittsburgh to hold a rally to fight for justice, to build coalitions and rally around solidarity.

The Food Bank’s Food Justice is Social Justice Initiative originally launched in July 2020. Designed to amplify the voices of organizations focused on ending racism and creating equity for all, the organization has partnered with numerous organizations serving the Black and Latino communities and intends on continuing to partner with organizations serving various types of minority and underserved communities.

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