Food For Thought Denver (FFTD) and Metropolitan State University of Denver Celebrate 11th Year of Groundbreaking Partnership

- Partnership has helped feed 800K+ hungry Denver area kids and distribute 5.2M lbs of food. Colorado is the 9th richest state in America, yet 15% of its kids are unsure where they will get their next meal.
- 55,000 Denver kids qualify for free or reduced school meal programs and do not have enough to eat from Friday lunch to Monday breakfast.

September 13, 2023 (Denver, CO) — Food For Thought Denver (FFTD) celebrating its 11th anniversary, will return to the Metropolitan State University of Denver (MSU Denver) campus today for its first food packing session of the academic year. Each Friday hundreds of volunteers assemble "PowerSacks," bags full of energy-packed food that are delivered to 76 area schools, in which most students come from households at or below the poverty line.

FFTD's launch in 2012 was made possible by the commitment of MSU Denver who provided space to assemble "PowerSacks" at the University's award-winning Hospitality Learning Center. FFTD's operation and footprint has grown exponentially and the packing sessions are now held across from the Cohen Center at The Assembly Athletic Complex, home of MSU Denver's Roadrunners Athletic program. MSU Denver student athletes have been a critical part of FFTDs volunteer base and have participated in the "PowerSack" sessions.

The partnership added another critical dimension in 2022 when FFTD started to provide food for MSU Denver students through the University's innovative <u>Rowdy's Corner Program</u>. Rowdy's corner exists to stem hunger on campus and is working to reimagine food support and destigmatize the need for assistance and to help ensure there is Food for All.

A testament to the transformational work FFTD and MSU Denver are doing, many students who benefited from FFTD have gone on to study at MSU Denver. There are also several MSU Denver students who are parents of kids currently benefiting from FFTD's services.

"MSU Denver has been an indispensable ally for FFTD. With our shared values, we continue to make progress in our bid to stamp out hunger," said Bob Bell, FFTD's Founder.

"We are excited to take our partnership with FFTD into its second decade. Our student athletes love being part of FFTD's potent approach to eradicating the weekend hunger gap and our campus is grateful for FFTD's support of Rowdy's Corner," said Miguel Huerta, MSU Denver's Assistant Director of Community Engagement and Programs.

ABOUT FOOD FOR THOUGHT DENVER (FFTD)

FFT exists to eliminate the weekend hunger crisis facing Denver's students. Founded in 2012 by Bob Bell, FFTD takes a simple, but potent approach to combating the weekend hunger gap. The 100% volunteer-led organization has no paid staff and all operating costs are funded by its Board and supporters, so every dollar donated goes only to feeding hungry kids. To learn more about FFTD and to join our movement as a volunteer or donor, visit <u>www.foodforthoughtdenver.org</u> and follow us on <u>IG</u> and <u>FB</u> or <u>LinkedIn</u>.