



# NEWS RELEASE

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### Food Drive at Hoover Gravesite nets 100 Pounds and Cash Gifts

**WEST BRANCH, IOWA – Oct. 30, 2019** – Over 100 students from Hoover Elementary in Iowa City attended the annual wreath laying ceremony on Friday, Oct. 25 at the Herbert Hoover National Historic Site in West Branch, also the site of the Hoover Presidential Library and Museum. Herbert Hoover, known as the Great Humanitarian, spent 50 years of his life bringing food to starving nations. The Hoover Presidential Foundation used the event as a learning opportunity of what it means to be a humanitarian by asking visitors to bring a can of food to the ceremony in honor of the late president.

“We offered a coupon good for a discount at Main Street Sweets, a local ice cream and lunch shop, to everyone who brought at least one food item,” said Jerry Fleagle, president and CEO of the Foundation. “The Hoover Elementary students brought in over 100 cans, and didn’t take the sweet reward.”

In all, over 100 pounds of food items were given at the event including over \$250 in cash donations. “Mary Plyler of North Carolina saw our request on social media and mailed a very generous check for the cause,” Fleagle said. Plyler is a great fan of Mr. Hoover and has many stories of family connections to the President. “Mary told us she made her gift because she remembers being hungry as a child and wants to help other hungry children,” Fleagle added.

The donations were delivered to the West Branch food pantry. Carol Jones, a volunteer at the pantry, was pleased to accept the items. “It means a great deal to us,” Jones said. “We were really running low until it came in.”

“As soon as I restocked the shelves, three families came in with an immediate need,” said Deb Patty, who also volunteers at the pantry.

“There’s a strong chance the Hoover Food Drive will return next year,” Fleagle added.

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#### About the Foundation

*The Hoover Presidential Foundation promotes and supports the Herbert Hoover Presidential Library-Museum, National Historic Site, and other programs that enhance the understanding of Herbert Hoover as president and humanitarian.*

**(Cont.)**

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Photo Caption (no credit needed): Deb Patty (L) and Carol Jones (R) of the West Branch food pantry accepts a \$254 cash gift and over 100 pounds of canned goods from Jerry Fleagle, Hoover Presidential Foundation. The gifts were part of a food drive tied to the recent wreath laying ceremony commemorating 55 years since Herbert Hoover's passing and internment in the Hoover National Historic Site.

