



## **PRESS RELEASE**

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### **TVS increases capacity to continue assisting with international famine relief efforts**

Food insecurity has surged in recent years across the world. As a result of the Coronavirus pandemic, more individuals are affected or at a higher risk than ever before. To help combat this growing rate of worldwide food insecurity, Transylvania Vocational Services (TVS) installed new equipment during the 2020 year to continue meeting increased demands with the production of its SuperCereal Plus (SCP) blend.

“As a supplier of further processed grain based and dairy commodities to USDA, USAID, and the US Military, TVS is pleased to announce a significant increase in plant capacity to process and package SuperCereal Plus,” said TVS VP of Operations Steve Green. “This was made possible by forming a strategic alliance with grain suppliers in the US Midwest along with extensive engineering studies and capital investments in high speed processing and packaging equipment.”

Currently TVS’s expansion has continued to support SCP production with an overall increase of 55%. Green said, “following 10 years of direct product experience and newly increased plant capacity, we are prepared to support USAID feed programs for another decade.”

SCP is a specially formulated cereal that offers complete nutrition for children ages 6-24 months when combined with fresh drinking water and used in conjunction with breast milk.

“TVS’s SuperCereal Plus business and our assistance with international hunger relief is something that we’re particularly proud of as an organization,” said TVS CEO Jamie Brandenburg. “We worked with the USAID and the World Food Programme to aid in the formulation and development of this complete nutritional supplement, and we continue to supply this product to various parts of the world.”

The manufacturing and packaging process of SCP began collaboratively with the USDA in 2010.

“As one of the first suppliers of SuperCereal Plus in North America, we are proud to invest and grow with our distribution partners to continue supplying a nutritious feeding supplement to families and children of developing nations that are in need,” said Green.

TVS has recently produced 1600 metric tons, or 3.5 million pounds, of SCP to aid in global hunger assistance efforts. Over the years, many regions of Africa and various other areas of the world have received TVS’ SCP.

“We are grateful to be able to partner with some of the largest aid organizations in the world and be part of the solution for both domestic and international famine relief,” said TVS VP of Business Development & Marketing, Beth Rich. “Our SuperCereal Plus business is particularly important because we know that we are helping some of the most famine-stricken regions in the world, but more importantly we are providing sustenance to very small children who are otherwise at risk of malnourishment.”

Earlier this year, TVS was contacted by the USDA to support the USAID and World Food Programme with famine relief to several affected regions of Africa, Nigeria and Djibouti.

Nigeria, located in West Africa, is the most densely populated country in Africa and prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, was already facing conflicts, displacement, and economic shocks. Djibouti is located at the Horn of Africa, near some of the world’s largest shipping lanes. Djibouti is home to one of the few USAID warehouses, not located in the US, that prepositions American food aid for Africa and Asia.

Prior to the pandemic, high risk food insecure areas were already facing other disasters such as; socioeconomic decline, conflicts, climate changes (dry season or cyclone season), along with Africa experiencing the worst desert locust upsurge in 25 years.

In these economically deprived “Hunger Hotspots,” an estimated 11 million children under the age of five face extreme hunger, and unless they receive emergency support it is projected that 168,000 children will die of malnutrition by the end of 2022.

Thankfully, widespread global actions are being taken to help save lives and TVS is proud to be a part of these humanitarian relief efforts. Brandenburg said, “we fully support our partners as they respond to global hunger relief efforts during the coronavirus pandemic and beyond.”

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## **About TVS**

Founded in 1967, TVS is a mission-driven social enterprise providing quality employment, job training and residential & community services to individuals with disabilities and other barriers to employment. TVS is the largest private manufacturing facility in Transylvania County. Over the past year, TVS has hired and maintained 35% more employees to continue blending and packaging dry food and beverage products for the USDA, USAID, and military services. For more information go to [www.tvsinc.org](http://www.tvsinc.org).