For Immediate Release: November 18, 2024 Contact: Sorrel Perka, Relationship & Events Manager, sorrel@thesilco.org, 970.513.1151 ext. 108

Theatre SilCo, Summit Ford, and Smart Bellies Partner for "Fill the Ford" Food Drive to Support Local Families

SILVERTHORNE, CO (November 8, 2024) - This December, <u>Theatre SilCo</u> is thrilled to announce its partnership with <u>Summit Ford</u> and <u>Smart Bellies</u> to launch the "Fill the Ford" food drive, a community initiative to support local families with food insecurity during the holiday season. Throughout the month of December, a Ford F-150 truck, generously provided by Summit Ford, will be stationed on Theatre SilCo's patio, ready to be filled to the brim with non-perishable food donations that will benefit the 900 local families that Smart Bellies provides nutritious meals to each week. Community members, theater patrons, and visitors are encouraged to contribute to this essential cause, and help make a difference in the lives of those in Summit County who need it most.

The "Fill the Ford" food drive offers an impactful way to spread holiday cheer and to support the Summit County community. This December, visitors to the theatre can drop off non-perishable food items directly into the truck, helping Theatre SilCo and Summit Ford reach their goal of filling the truck to capacity. Every donation is valuable, and together we can help alleviate food insecurity in our area.

Adding to the holiday spirit, Theatre SilCo's cherished production of A *Christmas Carol* will be running December 3 - December 22. Theatergoers are encouraged to bring a food donation when they attend the show. Before the performance or during intermission, patrons can visit the truck on the Theatre's outdoor patio to make a contribution, or can do so at a dropoff station in the Theatre lobby.

"The holiday season is a wonderful time for us to come together in support of our community," said Chris Alleman, Theatre SilCo's Producing Artistic Director. "We're excited to join forces with Summit Ford and Smart Bellies to make a meaningful impact to reduce food insecurity over the holidays, and we invite everyone to help us fill the Ford F-150 with food donations. Together, we can share the spirit of giving in a big way."

Smart Bellies Co-Founder, Margaret Sheehe, echoed these sentiments, "This community-led food drive can help us ensure a reliable and consistent source of nutritious food for children and families through the holiday season. Please help us 'Fill the Ford' in December!"

The "Fill the Ford" food drive is open to everyone, and all donations of kid-friendly non-perishable food items are welcome. Theatre SilCo and Summit Ford look forward to seeing the Silverthorne community rally around this cause, and help bring joy and relief to those who may be struggling this holiday season.

Event Details:

What: "Fill the Ford" Food Drive
When: December 1-22
Where: Theatre SilCo, 460 Blue River Pkwy, Silverthorne, CO 80498
How to Participate: Bring non-perishable food items such as granola bars, individual snack packs, boxed mac & cheese, or microwavable pasta, to donate to the Ford F-150 parked outside the theatre. Donations are encouraged during <u>A Christmas Carol</u> showtimes, or during regular business hours.

For more information, please contact Kate Groninger, Director of Philanthropy at kate@thesilco.org.

Let's come together this December to make a difference. Join <u>Theatre SilCo</u>, <u>Summit Ford</u>, and <u>Smart Bellies</u> in making the season bright for all in Summit County!

About Theatre SilCo:

Theatre SilCo is a dynamic professional theater company dedicated to bringing high-quality, impactful productions to Summit County, fostering a love for the performing arts across generations. With a commitment to inspiring and engaging the community, Theatre SilCo offers a wide range of performances, educational classes, and youth programs throughout the year.

About Summit Ford:

Summit Ford is a premier dealership in Silverthorne, CO serving the Summit County region, dedicated to community involvement and customer service. As a proud partner in the "Fill the Ford" food drive, Summit Ford is honored to help bring the community together in the spirit of giving this holiday season.

About Smart Bellies:

Smart Bellies strives to bridge the gap of food insecurity by providing bags of nutritious food to school aged children and their families, allowing them to get the full benefit of their education and childhood development. The nonprofit organization feeds over 1000 kids and 500 hungry families in Summit, Park, and Lake Counties each week, providing food delivery directly to homes each Friday of the calendar year, snacks for 200 local school classrooms each month, and a holiday meal box for Thanksgiving and for Winter Break.