

Table Matters

JUNE 2013



Eastern Illinois Foodbank

www.eifoodbank.org

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Celebrating 30 Years of Alleviating Hunger & Nourishing Stronger Communities

The Eastern Illinois Foodbank celebrated its official 30th birthday on May 3 this year! We wanted to take this opportunity to take a look back at where EIF came from and share with you our goals for the future.

The Eastern Illinois Foodbank was formed as part of a major regional effort to develop an emergency food network in central Illinois. In 1980, a group of about 20 local citizens met in Springfield to form a food distribution network that eventually became three independently-run foodbanks: Central Illinois Foodbank in Springfield, Peoria Area Foodbank, and Eastern Illinois Foodbank.

In June of 1983, the Eastern Illinois Foodbank opened its doors in downtown Champaign, in the building formerly occupied by Sears. During its first year, the new EIF warehouse distributed about 30,000 pounds of food. Initially, just a few food donors gave nearly all the product that the Foodbank distributed—and there was very little community-wide effort to help the fledgling organization stock its shelves.

In the past thirty years, the Foodbank has garnered tremendous support from our community. So much so,

that almost 54% of our funding comes from individual donors, corporations and events. Without our supporters the Foodbank wouldn't have been able to reach heights only hoped for by EIF's founders, including:

- *Distributing 7 million pounds of food (FY13) - 1 million pounds of which was fresh produce*
- *Developing four ancillary programs – School Pantry Program, Backpack Program, Foodmobile Program, and the Dinner Ready Program – to reach unmet need*
- *Implementation of the SNAP Outreach Program - which create \$3,365,453 of economic impact in eastern Illinois*
- *Creating a volunteer program 1,400 volunteers strong!*

Those are just a few highlights from the past thirty years. We have ambitious goals for the future including, providing more nutritious food to our neighbors in need and implementing the groundbreaking College Pantry Program, as well as creating an effort addressing senior hunger.

Help us celebrate thirty years of alleviating hunger in our community! Check out [page 5](#) for our list of 30 things you can do to learn about the need in our area and alleviate local hunger.

continued to page 5



Photo courtesy of The News-Gazette



MISSION ♥ THE EASTERN ILLINOIS FOODBANK EXISTS TO ALLEVIATE HUNGER IN EASTERN ILLINOIS.

From the Director



Dear Friends,

How many people are struggling with hunger in our community?

What is our impact on hunger and food insecurity?

And ultimately, how much food do we need to distribute to make sure no one goes to bed hungry?

These are critical questions—ones we must ask and answer, to examine and measure our work. But they're also tough questions. Fortunately, **knowledge is the key to identifying solutions.**

Conducted every four years by the Feeding America network, **Hunger in America** is the only nationwide study of charitable food assistance in America, focusing on both the agencies that provide hunger relief and the individuals served by those agencies. Our team of dedicated volunteers will be on the road this summer across our 14-county region collecting this data. We'll use this new information (to be

released in 2014), along with all the other metrics we monitor, to develop and adjust our programs, to track our impact, and to paint a more sophisticated picture of the work that lay ahead. It will bolster our resolve, tighten our focus, and make us more efficient and effective.

Read on to see the impact that you are helping the Eastern Illinois Foodbank make in eastern Illinois to alleviate hunger.

“ knowledge is the key to identifying solutions. ”

Together, we are up for the challenge.

All my best,

Jim Hires
Jim Hires

How the Foodbank Works



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Behind the Foodbank Operations

Construction Update

The Eastern Illinois Foodbank just completed an expansion of our refrigeration and freezer capacity to increase our ability to safely store nutritious food (such as produce, dairy, perishable fruits and vegetables, grains, and meat) by 60%. The Foodbank now has over 9,000 sq. ft. of cold storage space that will significantly impact our core work to fight hunger in eastern Illinois by supporting the acquisition and distribution of more nutritious and fresh food to children and families as part of our **Healthy Futures Initiative**.

Contact us at 328-3663 to schedule a tour of our new renovations!



Advocacy Alert

The debate over the 2013 Farm Bill is heating up in Congress and we need your help! SNAP benefits are at risk of being cut by \$21 billion. The proposed cuts are equal to \$20-25 for a family of 3, which will result in devastating consequences for our hungry neighbors and increased pressure on food banks to fill the need. Contact your Representative and urge them to oppose cuts to SNAP. Stay tuned for future opportunities to make a difference in the 2013 Farm Bill!

Action: FIND YOUR REPRESENTATIVE AT WWW.HOUSE.GOV

Agency Spotlight

Centennial High School Pantry

This new pantry launched in October 2012, the first to open in Champaign County, will tackle summer hunger by continuing to serve students throughout the summer months. Under the great volunteer leadership of Altrusans, Barb Daly and Anita Andrews, they plan to serve up to 25 families this summer and are on track to expand in the 2013-2014 school year. The school pantries at Central High School, Mattoon High School, and Charleston High School will also be open to serve families and fight hunger this summer.

News to share from your agency?

Email us at marketing@eifoodbank.org.



Pictured: Anita Andrews, Ondine Gross, Andrea Rundell & Barb Daly

Photo courtesy of Pat. Chapel

Planning for the Future



A planned gift to our **Legacy Society** is the perfect way to ensure sustainability of our hunger-relief efforts. Remembering the Eastern Illinois Foodbank in your will is often the easiest way to leave your legacy. These gifts

make it possible for the Foodbank to plan ahead in the fight against hunger.

We suggest the following language for your advisor if you would like to make a bequest to the Eastern Illinois Foodbank:

"I hereby give to the Eastern Illinois Foodbank, located at 2405 North Shore Drive, Urbana, IL 61802, [cash amount, percentage of net estate or description of property] to provide funding for the [insert program or its general purposes as determined by the Board of the Directors of the Eastern Illinois Foodbank] Eastern Illinois Foodbank."

If you or your financial advisor would like more information, contact Julie Melton at jmelton@eifoodbank.org or (217)328-3663. If you have already remembered the Eastern Illinois Foodbank in your planned giving, please notify us so we can ensure that you are recognized as a member of our Legacy Society. **Thank you for helping the Eastern Illinois Foodbank plan for the future.**

Lawyers Raise the Bar

Lawyers Feeding Illinois raised over 200,000 meals for families in eastern Illinois

From February 18 - March 1, teams of lawyers across eastern Illinois competed throughout Illinois by collecting food and funds. Through the efforts of eleven teams in our region, **Lawyers Feeding Illinois** raised over \$50,000 to benefit the Eastern Illinois Foodbank winning us the "Best Foodbank Region" award. Congratulations to the following teams that took home an award:

- **Vermilion County Bar Association**
- **Champaign County Bar Association**
- **Webber & Thies, P.C.**
- **Land of Lincoln Legal Assistance Foundation**

For more information on Lawyers Feeding Illinois, visit www.lawyersfeedingil.org/.



Did you know?

... that summer is the toughest season for hungry families. Families find it difficult to replace daily school lunches and, in some cases, breakfast their children receive through the National School Lunch Program. In fact, 89% of children that receive free or reduced lunches during the school year are not participating in the USDA's Summer Food Service Program (SFSP). To find a summer meals site close to you, call (800) 359-2163, text FoodIL to 877877 or visit SummerFoodIllinois.org.



Celebrating 30 Years continued from page 1

♥ **Donate! Every \$1 provides 5 meals**

- ♥ Ask your employer to match your donation
- ♥ Become a champion against hunger – join Hundreds Against Hunger

♥ **Volunteer at a one of the Foodbank's 220 food pantries, soup kitchens or shelters**

- ♥ Learn about the need in your county – visit feedingamerica.org/mapthemealgap
- ♥ Encourage family, friends and co-workers to volunteer at EIF
- ♥ Advocate for the Foodbank with your local and national political representatives

♥ **Attend EIF's annual Hunger Symposium in September**

- ♥ Show your support! Wear orange, the nationwide color of fighting hunger, on September 5
- ♥ Consider donating a gift of stock

♥ **Put the Foodbank in your will (see p. 4)**

- ♥ Make a gift in honor or in memory of a loved one
- ♥ "Like us" on Facebook
- ♥ "Follow us" on Twitter
- ♥ Ask your child's school to get involved with EIF's annual food and funds drive - Food for Families

♥ **Take the SNAP Challenge. Live for a week on \$5 per day and see what it's like for our neighbors in need**

- ♥ Watch "A Place at the Table" with your friends or family

♥ **Commit to donating \$30 per month to EIF. That's 120 meals per month or 1,440 meals per year**

- ♥ Challenge your friends, family or co-workers to each raise \$180 for EIF. That's 30 meals for 30 people
- ♥ Subscribe to our monthly e-newsletter

♥ **Register to volunteer at the Foodbank (visit eifoodbank.org/get-involved)**

- ♥ Donate your birthday to EIF - take monetary or food donations in lieu of gifts

- ♥ Visit EIF's booth at the Farmer's Market on June 29
- ♥ Select EIF as your organization to benefit from your Schnucks eScrip card

- ♥ Have extra produce from your garden? Visit AmpleHarvest.org to donate to your local food pantry or donate directly to EIF

- ♥ Give up your coffee for a week and donate what you would have spent to EIF

♥ **Schedule a tour of the EIF warehouse for you or your group**

- ♥ Ask your place of worship to take a collection for EIF
- ♥ Give meals instead of sweaters. Give a gift to EIF in honor of a loved one this holiday season
- ♥ Attend the Prom Benefit on March 8, 2014 at the Hilton Garden Inn!

♥ **Set an empty plate at your table as a reminder of those in our community who are hungry**

For more information on how to put these items into action, visit www.eifoodbank.org



FOOD *for* FAMILIES

Mark your Calendar Now:

Food for Families is November 9-24, 2013

THANK YOU TO OUR 2012 SPONSORS:

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Contact marketing@eifoodbank.org to get your school or business involved with Food for Families!

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Visit www.eifoodbank.org and click "get involved" then "events calendar" to stay up to date on our upcoming events.

June 8, 10am-Noon: Foodmobile food giveaway hosted by **Victor Dana Manufacturing** at Otterbein United Methodist Church, 602 E Pine, Robinson, IL. **Serves Crawford County residents**

June 15, 8:30-10:30am: Foodmobile food giveaway hosted by **Blue Cross Blue Shield** at Gibson City Bible Church, 309 N Route 47, Gibson City, IL **Serves Ford County residents**

June 29: Come visit your Foodbank at **Urbana's Market at the Square!** Or, volunteer any weekend from July - September to help pick up excess produce. For more information, email us at volunteer@eifoodbank.org.

July 13, 9-11am: Foodmobile food giveaway at Toledo Christian Church Pantry, 501 S Maryland St, Toledo, IL **Serves Ford Cumberland County residents**

July 13, 10am-Noon: Foodmobile food giveaway at Sullivan High School, 725 N Main, Sullivan, IL **Serves Moultrie County residents**

August 17, 8:30-10am: Foodmobile food giveaway at Gibson City Bible Church, 309 N Route 47, Gibson City, IL **Serves Ford County residents**

September: September is **Hunger Action Month**, a time to learn about local hunger and the needs in your community.

October 6: Master Chef Rick Bayless is coming to Prairie Fruits Farm to put the Chop on Hunger!

Stay tuned for more details on our fall events.



Member of:

Food donations accepted
Mon-Thurs: 7:30 am - 3:30 pm
Friday: 7:30 am - 12 pm

Twitter: @eifoodbank
Facebook: Eastern Illinois Foodbank

www.eifoodbank.org

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