



Eastern Illinois
Foodbank

PRESS RELEASE

11/15/16

For Immediate Release

Contact:

Kristen Bosch

kbosch@eifoodbank.org

(217) 328-3663 x 217

(217) 417-8775 mobile

Eastern Illinois Foodbank Launches 'Pop-Up Pantry' at VA Illiana Health Care System

URBANA, Illinois – With a \$75,000 grant from the Yahoo Employee Foundation, Eastern Illinois Foodbank will host pop-up pantries for the next year at the VA Illiana Health Care System in Danville, Illinois. The first distribution will be Tuesday, November 22 from 10-11:30am at the Chapel on the grounds of the VA Hospital in Danville.

The VA hospital doesn't have a bricks and mortar food pantry so the Foodbank will use a 'pop-up pantry' model to get food and household items to veterans and their families. This grant underwrites 22 distributions between now and October 2017. Veterans that currently receive benefits from the VA Illiana Health Care System and meet income eligibility guidelines are able to get food and household staples from these 'pop-up pantries.'

The 'pop-up pantry' distributions are modeled after Eastern Illinois Foodbank's Foodmobile program. They are single day, mobile food pantry distributions that are staffed almost entirely by volunteers. These distributions are designed to increase access to nutritious food for residents in rural and under-served communities. Approximately 10,000 pounds of food will be shared with 100-150 households of veterans struggling with hunger.

"This partnership with the VA Illiana Health Care System is exciting," said Jim Hires, President and CEO of Eastern Illinois Foodbank. "These pop-up pantries will allow the Foodbank to directly improve the lifestyle and health of the men and women who have so proudly served our nation. Eastern Illinois Foodbank thanks the Yahoo Employee Foundation for their generous support and commitment to serving our veterans."

Eastern Illinois Foodbank is one of 4 local organizations to receive \$170,000 in grants from the Yahoo Employee Foundation, a philanthropic organization funded by donations from Yahoo employees and interest from investments. This year, the foundation awarded nearly \$4 million in grants nationwide.

Since 2000, the Yahoo Employee Foundation has awarded more than \$25 million through more than 1,200 grants to organizations chosen by Yahoo employees. Last year, Eastern Illinois Foodbank received \$10,000 to support its Foodmobile program.

###

Eastern Illinois Foodbank works to alleviate hunger in eastern Illinois through cooperation with a network of food pantries, agencies and other programs. The Foodbank distributes donated and discounted food throughout a 17-county service area in cooperation with over 200 member agencies and programs. Through these agencies, the Foodbank provides meals to more than 116,000 men, women and children each year. The Eastern Illinois Foodbank is a member of Feeding America, Feeding Illinois, the United Way of Coles County, and the United Way of Champaign County.