

## How you made “a world of difference” for this student

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You have definitely  
helped me regain  
stability throughout  
this whole crisis.

—Matt

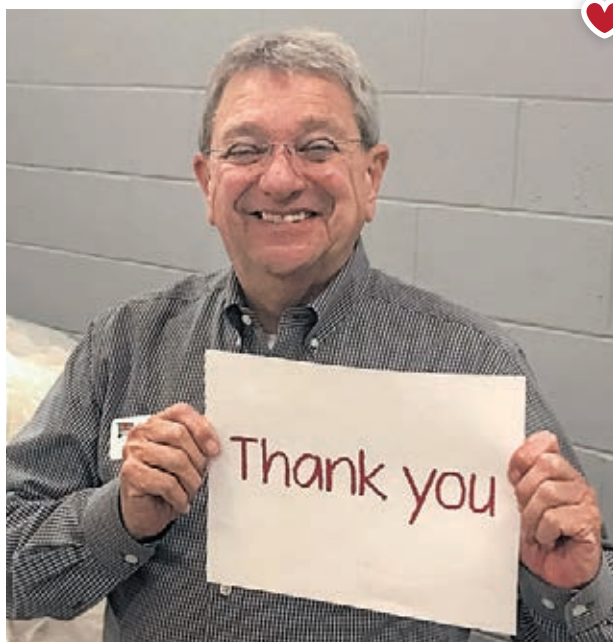
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*Read Matt's story on page 3.*





# Thank you for 15 wonderful years, Jim!



CEO Jim Hires is retiring, and everyone at the Foodbank wishes him so much success and happiness in his future endeavors!



During his time with us, Jim helped to **increase the Foodbank's reach** from 14 counties to 18 and to **grow our food distribution** from 2.2 million pounds per year to nearly 11.5 million.

“ Jim has always been an example for all of us.

—Steve Ericson, Feeding Illinois



Under Jim's leadership, **we now provide healthy food for 55,000 neighbors every month**—up from 48,800.

“ Being able to lead the work of the Foodbank these past years is the most important, fulfilling and humbling thing I have done in my entire work life. I was able to say daily that someone got to eat today because of what we did.

—Jim Hires

”



Jim's nonprofit experience began in earnest after **volunteering at a food bank** in the mid-90s. He has also been active in community service through the Urban League.

“**Congratulations, Jim! Thank you for your leadership. You will be missed by our community, as well as food bank colleagues across the country.**

—Marc Bralts, EIF Board Chair

After leaving the Foodbank, **Jim plans to stay involved** in addressing food insecurity, poverty and social justice.



## You helped Matt regain stability amid pandemic chaos

“I lost my job in April because of the COVID-19 crisis,” says Matt, a computer science major who plans to graduate Parkland College this May. “I was managing a pizza shop, and we were shut down because we were just losing business.”

“It’s really stressful not knowing where your income is going to come from—or if you’ll be able to pay all the bills you’ve got coming up.”

Fortunately, Matt continues, “Parkland College let all the students know that the food pantry was available and that they had a drive-through option.”

“I decided to stop in one day, not really knowing what to expect. I got up to the first window and a volunteer walked me through how it works. I was excited because, as she was reading off the things I could get, a lot of it was the basics that I would be getting at the grocery store. There were canned goods like spaghetti and fresh fruits and veggies, which I like to snack on.”

Matt couldn’t believe how easy the process was. What’s more, he says, “I was shocked at the amount of food I was able to get for free!”

“It’s really nice to know that the food pantry is there. I don’t have to worry about getting basic groceries. Having that resource has definitely helped me regain stability throughout this whole crisis.”

“**It’s really nice to know that the food pantry is there. I don’t have to worry about getting basic groceries.** —Matt



*First-time client Matt was amazed by the support you helped provide.*

**Thank you so much for helping neighbors like Matt find their footing again in these tough times. “Every little bit that you’re doing is helping somebody,” he says. “And that’s really important.” Please give again today at [eifoodbank.org](http://eifoodbank.org)**





*Your generosity helps our neighbors thrive.*



## Hunger is no match for our partnership

With big schools in our backyard, Eastern Illinois Foodbank frequently serves students like Matt. His story reminds us of some important truths:

**College students are a vulnerable population, too.** Many of them are spread so thin, between studying hard and working to cover tuition, room and board. For them, hunger is always one emergency away.

**Hunger is heartless.** It doesn't care if you're trying to build a future for yourself,

like these young people are. Hunger waits for opportunities just like the pandemic.

**Hunger is no match for our partnership.** Matt's story also shows us that your generosity, combined with the Foodbank's experience, is a powerful problem-solver.

Please give again today. You'll help ensure that our next generation of thinkers and doers can meet their full potential. You'll help families still struggling to recover from months of lost income. You'll help protect the health of our seniors.

**In fact, every \$1 you give will help provide 5 meals for neighbors in need. And those meals are, in a very real way, the foundation for a brighter, healthier future for us all. Please use the reply form below to send your next gift, or give online at [eifoodbank.org](http://eifoodbank.org)**

## Your gift can go twice as far

For the second year in a row, farmer-owned cooperatives Premier Cooperative Inc. and Land O'Lakes, Inc., are offering to match your donation in support of Eastern Illinois Foodbank's Foodmobile program!

Our Foodmobiles deliver fresh produce and other groceries to communities that need it most—usually in our most rural counties. These mobile pantries have provided a record amount of emergency relief

for our hungry neighbors during the pandemic.

Any amount you give, up to \$10,000, will be matched by our friends at Land O'Lakes and Premier Co-op, whose partnership we greatly appreciate.

**To take advantage of this opportunity, just check the box on the reply form.**

**You can also visit [eifoodbank.org/action/donate](http://eifoodbank.org/action/donate) and type "Foodmobile match" in the message section of the online giving form.**



LAND O LAKES



**Stay connected to the work you support!**



### MY SPRING GIFT

**Yes, I want to help make sure every student, senior and family facing hunger in eastern Illinois gets the food they need to thrive.**

Here is my gift of:

☐ \$250 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$25 ☐ Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Please match my gift in support of the Foodmobile program.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_

STATE \_\_\_\_\_

ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Please make your check payable to:

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Your donation is tax deductible to the full extent of the law.  
We will send you a receipt for your records.



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To charge your gift by phone, please call (217) 328-3663.

**It's easy! Give online at [eifoodbank.org](http://eifoodbank.org)**

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@ \_\_\_\_\_