



Fiscal Year 2020: July 1, 2019–June 30, 2020

2020 ANNUAL REPORT

Alleviating hunger. Nourishing stronger communities.

Year in Review

INSIDE

The Faces
of Hunger

3

FY20 Programs
& Operations
Highlights

5

Volunteer
Milestones

5

Community
Support & Mission
Impact Awards

6



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Jim Hires, Ex-Officio

President & CEO, Eastern Illinois Foodbank

Contact us

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Eastern Illinois
FOODBANK



The Hires Report from Jim



Dear Friend,

Thank you for standing with Eastern Illinois Foodbank during an extraordinary year.

I'm sure I don't have to tell you: 2020 has been challenging. Here at your Foodbank, the pandemic has required us to make changes in the way we operate. It made some aspects of our operations more difficult but our staff and agencies demonstrated flexibility and creativity to meet the increased need.

With the help of friends like you, we were able to:

- Secure greater amounts of food—including fresh produce—for our mobile food pantry program. We have served as many as 500 families at a single drive-through distribution!
- Add truck routes throughout our entire 18-county service area as more and more families faced food insecurity.
- Temporarily increase our cold storage capacity to allow us to accept and store larger amounts of fresh and frozen foods. This resulted in greater amounts of nutritious food being distributed across our region.
- Prepare to address the next wave of need in eastern Illinois.

These times and circumstances have tested everyone, and I'm proud of how our Foodbank has risen to the challenges we face. A resounding thank you to our amazing staff, dedicated volunteers and to you, our generous and supportive donors who make everything we do possible!

As the holidays approach, we know that many of our neighbors will be turning to the Foodbank and our agency partners for help in greater numbers. I am confident that, with your continued support, we will be able to provide not just nourishing food, but hope as well.

Thank you, again, and happy holidays!

Jim Hires, President & CEO

“These times and circumstances have tested everyone, and I'm proud of how our Foodbank has risen to the challenges we face.”

The Faces of Hunger

Across eastern Illinois, COVID-19 has disrupted thousands of lives. Unemployment surged to new highs in 2020, and many small businesses have shuttered for good.

But our community is resilient. We will take care of one another today so that we can emerge even stronger tomorrow. It starts with alleviating hunger, together.

Lewis sits at the edge of his trunk, next to the groceries he has just received. His face is masked and his glasses are tinted...but behind all this, you can still see that Lewis is bewildered.

"I never expected to be in this position," he says. "My wife and I had good jobs, good income—we were secure."

Then COVID-19 struck.

"Within a month, we needed help," Lewis says. "It can happen to anybody."

Lewis is one of thousands of our eastern Illinois neighbors whose life was turned upside-down by the pandemic. He and his wife were semiretired and enjoyed the part-time jobs that put food on their table and kept them in touch with their community. They even welcomed Lewis' brother into their home when he lost his job.

Then Lewis and his wife were let go, too.

“
In the past, we were the ones donating to the Foodbank. Within a month, we needed help. It can happen to anybody.
—Lewis”

"Between the three of us, we lost five jobs due to the virus," Lewis shares. "And I've been turned down for unemployment because my work was seasonal."

The severity of their situation hit Lewis like a ton of bricks: For the first time in their lives, they couldn't afford something as essential as food anymore.

But thanks to friends like you, the Foodbank has been going strong—helping to provide nourishing food for more than 51,000 food-insecure households during the pandemic. And we were ready to help Lewis, too.



Thank you for helping neighbors like Lewis, who never expected to face hunger.

"This food makes the little bit of money we do have coming in go a lot further," he says.

Lewis can pick up dry and frozen goods, along with fresh fruits and vegetables, at his local Foodbank partner agency's drive-through distribution. The safely prepacked boxes contain enough food to last at least a week.

"We get really creative with the pasta and potatoes—and it works!" Lewis says, with joy in his voice for the first time.

That's exactly the impact we want to have when we serve our struggling neighbors today. We want to make sure they have enough to eat—and we want them to feel hopeful again, especially with the holidays right around the corner.

Will you help more neighbors like Lewis? Just use the form on page 8 of this annual report to give another gift to alleviate hunger in eastern Illinois. Thank you so much for your compassion at this time of year!



Your support helps us organize safe drive-through food distributions in 18 counties.

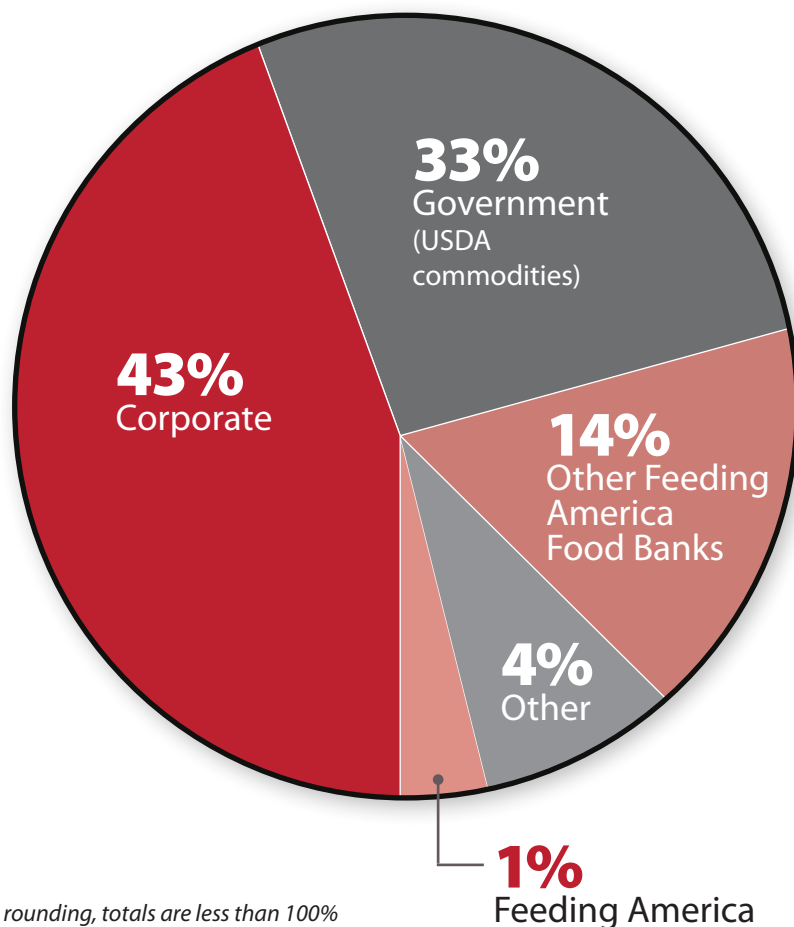


ANNUAL REPORT

Fiscal year 2020

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WHERE OUR FOOD COMES FROM



FINANCIAL REPORT

Public Support & Revenue

Contributed food	\$17,839,403.00
Contributions	\$3,184,153.64
Government grants & contracts	\$429,421.00
Other grants	\$805,269.82
Program revenue	\$495,275.05
Total Public Support & Revenue	\$22,753,522.51

Expenses

Program services	\$20,689,220.33
Fundraising	\$600,718.63
Management & General	\$321,634.92
Total Expenses	\$21,611,573.88

Non-Operating

Investment income (expense)	\$38,752.97
Loss on sale of long-lived assets	\$(-)
Total Non-Operating	\$38,752.97

Change in Net Assets **\$1,103,195.66**

Net Assets, beginning of year	\$6,531,394.39
Net Assets, end of year	\$7,634,590.05

Thank you, volunteers!

Our volunteers...

Repacked **130,000 pounds of food**

Distributed **549,000 meals** through Foodmobiles

Helped raise **\$258,000** by supporting community events

And brought hope to our neighbors in need.



HIGHLIGHTS



Our fleet of trucks **traveled 180,000 miles last year**, delivering food and picking up donated product.



659,000 pounds of food, including 234,000 pounds of produce, were distributed to nearly 25,000 individuals and 6,000 children through 52 Foodmobiles held on Saturday mornings in rural and under served communities.

We distributed food to more than **8,300 veterans**.



6,200 schoolchildren and their families were provided food through our School Food Pantry Program.



To combat weekend hunger, **58,000 backpacks full of food** were distributed to students from our Backpack Program partners, Feeding Our Kids and Food 4 Kids.

We recycled **38 tons of cardboard** from our facility.



11.5 million pounds of food, including 2.5 million pounds of produce, were distributed to our network of partner food pantries, soup kitchens, shelters and other feeding programs. That's 9.5 million meals for children, seniors and families facing hunger.



VOLUNTEER MILESTONES

The following Foodbank volunteers also reached milestones in FY20:

- 1,000+ HOURS**
Gail Hueting
Joanne Vician
- 500+ HOURS**
Ronald Stevenson
Mary Koch
Richard Nohmer

- 300+ HOURS**
Mark Holderbaugh
Terry Thies
Marcel Francisocno
Chris Justice
Patricia Hanes
Gloria Jahn



Thank you to the donors who supported our mission in FY20.

For a list of donors, please visit eifoodbank.org/news/newsletter

Mission Impact Awards



Business Partner of the Year – Farm Credit Illinois

Farm Credit Illinois has been a long-time Eastern Illinois Foodbank supporter. In the last fiscal year, they sponsored an event for the agriculture industry at a local brewery to raise awareness of EIF's Harvest for Hunger campaign.

They also provided a \$50,000 gift to the Foodbank, to maximize a matching donation for EIF's warehouse expansion.

Farm Credit Illinois employees also participated in the 2019 Operation Orange all-day food repack, and the company joined forces with the Champaign Fire Department during EIF's Jump into Action fundraising event, which was part of Giving Tuesday.

"Farm Credit Illinois is humbled by this partner recognition from Eastern Illinois Foodbank. The farm families who own our cooperative and our employees are grateful for the Foodbank's

contributions in nourishing our central Illinois neighbors. Supporting local organizations, like the Foodbank, who helps lift those in need—especially during these challenging times—is consistent with Farm Credit's commitment to build healthy rural communities."

—**Aaron Johnson,**
Farm Credit Illinois
President & CEO



Mission Impact Award – Ed Perry

Ed Perry is a retired member of the community who has volunteered to provide EIF with valuable expertise regarding building renovations and repairs.

His assistance and expertise in regard to warehouse wall and cooler repairs was a tremendous help as EIF looks to expand its facilities.

"Being retired and volunteering at EIF, it has given me the opportunity to use my architectural and construction management background to give back to our community. Helping to solve a need and making things better than how I found them is one of the most fulfilling things a person can do in life."

—**Ed Perry, Volunteer**



Our growth and success would not be possible without the support of our community and donors. These dedicated individuals and companies have helped Eastern Illinois Foodbank (EIF) further our mission of alleviating hunger and nourishing stronger communities. We would not be able to fight hunger without you!



Community Partner of the Year – Premier Cooperative, Inc.

The agricultural industry has long played a crucial role in supporting Eastern Illinois Foodbank, and the support from farmer-owned cooperatives like Premier Cooperative, Inc. has been crucial in allowing EIF to serve rural communities. For the past two years, Premier Cooperative provided matching funds along with Land O’Lakes, Inc. to support Eastern Illinois Foodbank’s Foodmobile program.

Premier Cooperative also secured matching funds from CoBank to support EIF’s warehouse expansion.

“It is said that difficult times don’t build character, it reveals it. During such unprecedented times, the members of Premier are so very proud to be working with Eastern Illinois Foodbank as they work to ensure those experiencing food insecurity receive the attention they so desperately need during these difficult times. Members of Premier Cooperative have invested generations of effort toward feeding the world, and Eastern Illinois Foodbank’s work to ensure this starts at home should not only be welcomed but supported as rural America does what it does best: support our neighbors.”

—Robert Carlson, General Manager of Premier Cooperative, Inc.

“...the members of Premier are so very proud to be working with Eastern Illinois Food Bank as they work to ensure those experiencing food insecurity receive the attention they so desperately need during these difficult times. —Robert Carlson”

Mission Impact Award – Central Illinois Produce

Central Illinois Produce has teamed up with Eastern Illinois Foodbank to provide boxes of fresh produce to those in need. As part of the USDA’s Farmers to Families Food Box Program, Central Illinois Produce assembles and delivers boxes to EIF, which are then distributed through drive-through food distributions throughout eastern Illinois to those in need.

“Central Illinois Produce has enjoyed a decades-long relationship with EIF so when presented with the opportunity to partner with foodbanks in the central Illinois area, EIF was our first call. The Farmers to Families food box program is doing exactly what it was designed to do. Helping families in need, receive high-quality produce and dairy items through a local distributor buying from national, regional and local farmers. None of this would be possible without our partnership with EIF and the support of the USDA.”

—John Rollins, Owner of Central Illinois Produce



Q&A with Board Member Marc Bralts

What led you to join the board of the Eastern Illinois Foodbank?

I joined the Foodbank board as someone wanting to help others with a fundamental part of our lives: food. We live in a time where food is abundant, yet many are still food insecure. Finding a way to eliminate food insecurity seems like a logical first step to improving our society.

What is the most rewarding aspect of being a board member?

The most rewarding part of being a board member is getting to know the awesome staff and passionate teams that make the Foodbank run every day. They give of themselves in a way that shows it is more than just a job to them.

From your perspective, what makes EIF so effective?

EIF is effective because of the great teams and staff that work there every day. We have long-term employees



who have developed knowledge that helps us meet Agency Partner needs in normal times, and their experience was very important in helping us navigate the changes that came with the pandemic.

Our community in eastern Illinois is truly remarkable. —**Marc Bralts**, Board Chair

What do you think the upcoming holidays will look like?

I do believe we will still need to properly distance and be safe. I hope I am wrong about that, but we will plan for this to be around so we can be effective at our mission whatever the status of the virus.

Would you like to share a message with foodbank donors?

Our community in eastern Illinois is truly remarkable. We have seen the outreach as the pandemic hit. All our donors, volunteers and others who support the Foodbank in various ways will be critical to our region navigating the ongoing crisis. We appreciate you and always welcome your generosity and feedback!

Remember, every \$1 you give can help provide 5 meals. To give today, please go online at eifoodbank.org or send in the enclosed reply slip with your gift. Thank you for your generous support!

Stay connected to the work you support! Please visit eifoodbank.org to learn more.



HERE IS MY HOLIDAY GIFT TO ALLEVIATE HUNGER

Yes, Jim, I want to help the Eastern Illinois Foodbank serve every neighbor who urgently needs food this holiday season.

I'm sending a gift of:

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

☐ Please send me information about the Feed 365 monthly giving program.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

Please make your check payable to:

Eastern Illinois Foodbank

2405 North Shore Drive | Urbana, IL 61802

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



Please charge my gift on my credit card:

☐ VISA ☐ MC ☐ AMEX ☐ DISC

CARD NUMBER _____ SECURITY # _____

SIGNATURE _____ EXPIRATION DATE _____

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

It's easy! Give online at eifoodbank.org

Join our online community. Your email address:

@ _____