



PRESS RELEASE

09/11/2019

For Immediate Release

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EASTERN ILLINOIS FOODBANK RECEIVES \$5,000 DONATION FROM THE DARDEN FOUNDATION TO HELP END HUNGER

URBANA, 09/11/19 — Eastern Illinois Foodbank (EIF) announced today a \$5,000 grant from The Darden Foundation to help provide hunger-relief to eastern Illinois families. The funds will be used to help EIF alleviate hunger in its 18-county service area.

“We are very grateful to Darden Foundation for this grant,” said Jim Hires, President & CEO of Eastern Illinois Foodbank. “The funds will help us continue to serve more than 58,000 people each month who are struggling with food insecurity in eastern Illinois.”

Eastern Illinois Foodbank, a member of the Feeding America® network, is one of 193 food banks to receive this funding from The Darden Foundation. It is projected that this grant will enable Eastern Illinois Foodbank to fund several initiatives.

The Darden Foundation is committed to supporting families facing food insecurity in communities across the United States. Their commitment to help is demonstrated through their partnership with Feeding America and their network of 200 food banks across the nation.

Feeding America has worked alongside The Darden Foundation for seven years in the fight to end hunger. Thanks to their ongoing support, the Feeding America network has been able to help provide even more meals to families in need.

To learn more about Eastern Illinois Foodbank visit www.eifoodbank.org

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About Eastern Illinois Foodbank

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 an 18-county service area in cooperation with 170 member agencies and programs. Through these agencies, the Foodbank provides meals to more than 58,000 men, women and children each month. Eastern Illinois Foodbank is a member of Feeding America, Feeding Illinois, and the United Way of Champaign County.

About Darden Restaurants and The Darden Foundation

Darden is a restaurant company featuring a portfolio of differentiated brands that include Olive Garden, LongHorn Steakhouse, Cheddar's Scratch Kitchen, Yard House, The Capital Grille, Seasons 52, Bahama Breeze and Eddie V's. Our people equal our success, and we are proud to employ 185,000 team members



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in more than 1,700 restaurants. Together, we create memorable experiences for nearly 400 million guests each year in communities across North America. The Darden Foundation works to bring to life our spirit of service through its philanthropic support of charitable organizations across the country. Since 1995, The Darden Foundation has awarded more than \$90 million in grants to non-profit organizations such as Feeding America, National Restaurant Association Educational Foundation