

Kelly Daly takes the lead in this new era of recovery

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Kelly Daly stepping into this role is welcome news to the EIF team, the communities we serve and our over 170 agency partners. The success and growth of the Foodbank the last several years would not have been possible without her effort, her skills, her passion and her insight into the needs of those we serve.

—Jim Hires

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Eastern Illinois Foodbank is proud to announce that Senior Vice President Kelly Daly will take over as President & CEO, replacing Jim Hires who has retired after 15 years. Kelly has been with EIF for 22 years, and the combination of her experienced leadership and commitment to alleviating hunger in Eastern Illinois ensure that the Foodbank is positioned for continued growth.

Read more in the “Daly Briefing” on page 2.

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The Daly Briefing



“ Kelly Daly has lived our mission for decades and is positioned to help us emerge into the new normal as we learn the lasting impacts of the COVID pandemic. Kelly will hit the ground running as she is already established and well regarded with our staff, agency partners, and local and national foodbank organizations. We are very excited to have Kelly continue in the direction charted by Jim Hires as he retires.

—Marc Bralts, EIF Board Chair

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When I started work at the Foodbank more than 22 years ago, I never imagined myself stepping into the role of President & CEO. Back then, I had a young child at home, and I was simply looking for a part-time position that allowed me to get out of the house. I didn't even know what a food bank was. But time changes everything, and two decades later, here I am ready to embrace the challenges this historic era will bring to foodbanking.

What an honor to follow in Jim Hires' footsteps! For the last 15 years, I have had the privilege of working side by side with Jim as the Foodbank experienced exponential growth. Although his daily presence will be missed, Jim's legacy continues. His unwavering commitment to our neighbors facing food insecurity inspires us and drives us to be the best version of ourselves.

Like Jim, I recognize the significance of our mission and our responsibility to the communities we serve. I've witnessed the economic impact COVID-19 has had on our service area, and I know our work is more important than ever. The extraordinary response of our staff, board, partner agencies and supporters during the pandemic ignites my hope for the future.

Jim's retirement and the pandemic have ushered in a season of change. While we will continue our fierce commitment to alleviating hunger, distributing food is not enough. We must work together to confront the root causes of food insecurity. Our board and staff have embraced this opportunity to transform and grow.

I hope you will join us.

Kelly W. Daly

Kelly Daly
President & CEO

Partner spotlight

Ensuring students stay healthy and thrive

For Kathy Frye, what started as a health assignment turned into a passion for students facing hunger.

Kathy is a health teacher at Arthur Lovington Atwood Hammond High School in Arthur. She wanted her students to do a food log for three days of everything they ate. She quickly noticed that many kids weren't logging much.

"I addressed one student, acting frustrated that they weren't putting effort into it," Kathy says. "She looked at me with the clearest eyes and said, 'We don't have much to eat, Mrs. Frye. My mom hasn't had a job in a while.'"

"It broke my heart."

That was in 2017. Kathy approached her principal, determined to help. She started Knights Table, a daily food pantry available to any of the school's 300 students. They order

“She looked at me with the clearest eyes and said, ‘We don’t have much to eat, Mrs. Frye. My mom hasn’t had a job in a while.’ It broke my heart.”

through a Google form, and can choose from 75-90 food items. They can pick up their order on the way to the bus or leaving school for the day.

Kathy is grateful for the partnership with Eastern Illinois Foodbank. Thanks to your generous support, students have consistent access to food for themselves and their families.

"Without our partnership with Eastern Illinois Foodbank, we wouldn't be

able to do what we do," Kathy says. "I don't know if we would have had enough to sustain doing this. They have been great, and so supportive."



The Knights Table school pantry helps about 50 students each month, providing nutritious food for students and their families.

For more information on our partner agencies, please visit eifoodbank.org. Thanks for your support!

Volunteer spotlight

Doing whatever it takes to feed hungry families



“We’re serving families who’ve never needed assistance before. Without this help, they wouldn’t know where to go for food.”

—Dayna, volunteer

Three years ago, Dayna Brown helped form a partnership between Eastern Illinois Foodbank and McLean County's Unit 5 School District. She helps distribute food to as many as 270 people each month through Foodmobiles hosted at a local high school. When Dayna sets her mind to providing food for kids and families in need, very little can get in her way. "I've done it with snow up to my knees," she recalls. The COVID-19 pandemic won't slow her down either. "We can't be inside right now," she says, "so we're finding solutions—like our amazing drive-through."

Your support works hand in hand with tireless volunteers like Dayna. Together, you are the engine that moves our Foodbank operation forward. Thank you for alleviating hunger in Eastern Illinois!



Dayna and EIF driver Karl Ohlsson prepare for a food distribution at Normal Community West High School.

Help prevent hunger in Eastern Illinois this summer

We're heading into a very busy season. Many local families are still surviving on slim unemployment checks while parents continue to seek jobs. On top of that, children who attended school in person aren't getting free school meals anymore.

These factors are combining to form a perfect storm of hunger and anxiety for too many households across Eastern Illinois. And children are affected most of all!

We need your help to ensure vulnerable kids—and families, seniors and many more neighbors—don't go hungry this summer. Will you stand with us again?

Every \$1 you give will help provide food for 5 complete meals for families in need. You'll help give kids the freedom to just be kids again. You'll give parents some much-



You can help provide food boxes full of healthy options.

needed peace of mind. And you'll support every family member's health with nourishing food.

Together, we can make a real difference in these challenging times for neighbors all across the 18 counties we serve. Thank you for giving a special summer gift today!

To give your gift online, visit eifoodbank.org/action/donate, or return the form below with your donation in the enclosed envelope.

If you or someone you know needs help, it would be our honor to serve you, too. Please visit eifclient.com to sign up and find the partner pantry closest to you.

Stay connected to the work you support!



My summer gift to help kids and families facing hunger

Yes, I'll help provide nourishing meals for our neighbors in greatest need this summer.

Here is my 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 _____

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

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:

@ _____

Child hunger today

With so many parents still trying to find work, kids need your help getting enough to eat this summer.



1 in 4 kids
is facing hunger



13,800 families
visit our partner
pantries every month



Since the pandemic began, EIF has distributed
20% more pounds of food

Give again today to help provide the food kids need to thrive! You can rush your gift into action at eifoodbank.org/action/donate.