

INSIDE SCOOP



Eastern Illinois
Foodbank



NEW RECORD SET FOR **PROM BENEFIT!**

On March 10, an empty ballroom at the Hilton Garden Inn was transformed into a casino straight from the Vegas strip, complete with a roulette wheel, blackjack, poker and craps tables. The adjacent ballroom was dressed in tall gold candelabras, dark florals, sleek black chiavari chairs and, of course, a disco ball in the center of the dance floor. Guests arrived around 7pm and, thanks to our Prom Court, the evening started off with a bang!

Our Prom Committee assembled an outstanding Prom Court which included members from across our community. Our Prom Court is tasked to raise funds for votes (\$1 = 1 vote) and the male and female candidate that raises the most money for the Eastern Illinois Foodbank is crowned the night of the event.

To celebrate the decade long event, we brought back a past Prom Benefit King and Queen. Stefanie Pratt was crowned the 2013 Prom Queen and Brian Stark was the reigning King from 2017. This year's Prom Court truly made an incredible impact, raising \$75,000 in the months leading up to Prom – doubling last year's court total and raising 60% of our goal before the event even started.

Guests played casino games for raffle tickets and participated in a silent auction and paddle raise. Thanks to our sponsors, generous community and competitive Prom Court, our goal of raising 600,000 meals was blown away.

By the end of the night, over 711,800 meals (\$142,300+) were raised for our neighbors in need and Brian Stark and Miranda Soucie were crowned Michelle's Bridal Prom King & Queen, raising more than 136,000 meals (\$27,000+) combined. The Prom Court and our community set a new standard for this event for years to come.



The best part is that the giving didn't stop after Prom was over...

Not only did 2018 Prom Queen, Miranda Soucie's, law firm (Spiros Law, P.C.) support her efforts in running for Prom Queen, they were also inspired to volunteer at the Foodbank! They have helped label hundreds of cans of carrots and repacked a thousand pounds of cereal. When asked what made her firm decide to support EIF outside of the Prom Benefit she explained:

"As we were talking about the Prom Benefit, and the food bank itself, I personally thought that fundraising was not enough. It is important, and the competition was fun, but at the end of the day, Prom is not what EIF is about. As a result, I wanted to follow through on the commitment to EIF and help the money that we raised actually become something tangible and useful to our community. When we asked our staff if they would be interested in helping out, they stepped up big. We have helped with repacking twice now, and I can promise, we will be back."

continued on page 3

Michelle's Bridal 2018 Prom Court:

Brian Hanson (Brian Hanson State Farm Insurance Agency)
Justin Gensler (Illinois National Bank)
Warren Lee (Carle Physician Group)
Nicole McGuire (McGuire Development Group)
Stefanie Pratt (The Stefanie Pratt Team/Coldwell Banker The Real Estate Group)
Nikia Hults (Eastern Illinois Foodbank)
London Blake (The Pavilion)
Colleen Hatton (Dish Passionate Cuisine)
Brian Stark/Prom King (The Andersons)
Miranda Soucie/Prom Queen (Spiros Law)



2017-18 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Wendy Harris, Board Chair
Asst Director for Administrative Services
Illinois Natural History Survey

Terry Thies, Vice Chair
Youth Program Manager
Parkland College

Elon Zeigler, Secretary
Industrial Engineer
US Army CERL

Wade Hoey, Treasurer
Supervisor
Martin, Hood, Friese & Assoc.

Dawn Aubrey
Director of Dining
University of Illinois

Chad Barringer
Vice President
Plumbers & Steamfitters, Local 149

Alan Cook
Rabbi
Sinai Temple

George Czapar
Director
University of Illinois Extension

Terri A Daniels
Business Administrative Associate
Center for Wounded Veterans in Higher Education

Deborah Day
Retired
Illinois Public Media

Nancy Greenwalt
Executive Director
Promise Healthcare

Howard Hoisington
Materials Planning & Scheduling Manager
Kraft Heinz Company

Austin Hogue
Senior Project Engineer
Broeren-Russo Builders, Inc

Patricia Metzler
Registered Nurse
Carle Hospital

Ramona Sullivan
Attorney
Champaign County Public Defenders Office

Jim Hires, Ex-Officio
President & CEO
Eastern Illinois Foodbank

CONTACT US

Eastern Illinois Foodbank
2405 North Shore Drive
Urbana, IL 61802-7221
(217) 328-3663

www.eifoodbank.org



Eastern Illinois
Foodbank



DIRECTOR'S LETTER



Dear friends and supporters,

In the food industry one often hears about locally sourced products—something grown in a community that stays in the community. It usually refers to food or agriculture products, and local sourcing is valued as a sustainable practice. At EIF we benefit from an additional type of local sourcing—volunteers.

In each of the 18 counties we serve, we rely on local volunteers. People who live in the county who want to help their neighbors. On a rainy Saturday in March, 40 volunteers gathered at the American Legion Hall in Clinton to assist with a foodmobile. They set up tables, unpacked boxes, arranged produce, hung signs, and answered questions. One group even helped clients load groceries into their cars.

The group I am referring to was a team of smiling, enthusiastic young women wearing softball jerseys. When the Clinton High School Lady Maroon's softball game was canceled that morning, the team headed straight to the American Legion Hall to see how they could help. In addition to carrying their neighbor's groceries in the rain, they infused the group with energy and enthusiasm.

On this cold gray morning, these young women offered service with a smile. As one of them said, "It feels nice to do something for the community—to see some good in the world." Our volunteers make their communities brighter. They are a critical local resource in our fight against hunger.

Last year, volunteers contributed 9,260 hours to EIF. That is the equivalent of 4.5 full-time employees imbedded in local neighborhoods, providing support at our local facility. People in Clinton helping people in Clinton. Neighbors helping neighbors. We are privileged to be a part of this locally sourced, sustainable network of support.

Want to help neighbors in your community? See the foodmobile article in this newsletter for details about how to get involved, or visit our website, eifoodbank.org and click on TAKE ACTION, VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES.

Jim Hires
President & CEO



DID YOU KNOW...

You can provide a sustainable platform from which the Foodbank can serve those struggling with hunger in our community by setting up a recurring donation? Being a recurring donor to the Foodbank provides a strong, reliable source of financial support to ensure that single parents, children, seniors living on fixed incomes, and all the families working hard to make ends meet and coming up short every month, have a place to turn to for help.

Visit www.eifoodbank.org, click "donate," enter your information and select "Make this donation recurring."



NEW RECORD SET FOR PROM BENEFIT!

continued from page 1

Prom Court candidate, Brian Hanson was also inspired to continue giving. The Brian Hanson Agency will be holding a yearlong fundraiser for EIF. \$10 will be donated for every household quote provided by Brian's office.

Learn more about Brian's giveback in our events and promotions section on page 4.

The Prom Benefit has an impact on individuals and families facing hunger in our community, every day. If you or your business would like be involved in Prom Benefit 2019, contact our Development department at 217-328-3663 or email us at marketing@eifoodbank.org.



NEW AGENCIES & PROGRAMS



Jubilee Café became an EIF member agency in October of 2017. Their evening meal program serves nearly 200 individuals a month. Jubilee Café is located inside Community United Church of Christ (805 South 6th Street in Champaign) and serves a hot meal every Monday from 5-6:30pm to anyone in need. Learn more about Jubilee Café at www.facebook.com/jubileecafecucc

Arthur Lovington Atwood
Hammond High School

Pantry joined EIF's School Pantry Program in March of this year. The School Pantry will serve high school students and their families and have a goal of feeding 50 students and their families each week.

MEET EIF BOARD MEMBER: WENDY HARRIS

During the day she's the Assistant Dean for Administration for the School of Social Work at the University of Illinois, but after work hours she serves as a Foodmobile Captain and EIF's Board Chair. It all started when Wendy Harris was looking for a new volunteer opportunity in the social justice area, specifically a volunteer opportunity that allowed her to help on evenings and weekends. She reached out to EIF when we were in need of Foodmobile Captains (volunteers trained by EIF to manage Foodmobile/mobile food distributions).

Working on Foodmobiles allowed Wendy to learn more about the individuals and families in our area who don't know where their next meal will come from. She heard personal stories from those struggling to make ends meet, firsthand experiences of what "asking for help" feels like and statements of appreciation for what EIF and our network of agencies and programs provide. Wendy recalls, "I distinctly remember the appreciations of a grandmother having to feed her grandkids over spring break, helping someone who lived in her car and was limited on the types of food she could take, and a lesson from a client in all the ways you can use large quantities of tomatoes. And then there are the hugs of thanks!" It soon became clear that her next step was to join the Foodbank's Board of Directors.

She has been serving our board for the past 6 years, supporting our Foodmobile Program, attending events like our Prom Benefit with friends and family, and utilizing her expertise to guide the Foodbank's work in 18 counties across eastern Illinois.

Watch for more Board Member spotlights in our other print and on our social media channels. Follow us on Facebook (Eastern Illinois Foodbank), Twitter (@eifoodbank) and Instagram (e.i.foodbank).



EIF is the gateway to feeding our communities, where 1 out of 7 people struggle with hunger.

By buying in bulk, repacking with the help of volunteers, and establishing connections with local businesses, EIF can provide our 220 local agencies with food to distribute. So much good can be done with every dollar or hour of time you donate!

FOODMOBILES & VOLUNTEER NEEDS

We're often contacted by community groups, businesses and individuals in our community interested in volunteering. We're always delighted when a group asks, "What do you need help with most?"

We largely repack bulk food from our warehouse but repacking product isn't all we do. In fact, we have a large need for Foodmobile volunteers. Foodmobiles are mobile food pantries which are designed to provide emergency food to rural or under-served communities. Foodmobiles are generally held outside Champaign-Urbana on Saturday mornings and volunteers are needed from 8:45am until noon.

Last year, EIF held 51 Foodmobiles which fed 15,000 individuals, including 6,000 children. For many, Foodmobiles stretch budgets and help bridge the gap until the next paycheck or source of income arrives. These distributions wouldn't be able to take place without the help of volunteers.

We're currently in need of volunteers in McLean, Moultrie, Piatt, and Vermilion counties. Approximately 30 volunteers are needed for each distribution however, if you are a group coordinator and are interested in helping, your group is not required to fill all 30 spots.

Does your group want to adopt a Foodmobile site by coordinating volunteers in a particular county? Contact Emily at volunteer@eifoodbank.org for more information. For dates, times and locations of upcoming Foodmobiles in which we need your help, visit www.eifoodbank.org, click on "Take Action" and "Volunteer Opportunities".



TIPS FOR MAKING THE MOST OF YOUR VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

1. If you're planning a day of service with your organization, contact EIF first to determine when and what type of volunteer help is needed. Set your date based upon when the Foodbank needs your help.
2. If you're a group coordinator, please send all instructions from EIF to your group members. Your group members will know what will be asked of them on volunteer day and ensures a safe and fun volunteer experience that starts on time.
3. Don't forget the end result of your work. Someone who is struggling with food insecurity will have a place to turn to for help - thanks to you.

EVENTS & PROMOTIONS

Brian Hanson Agency

\$10 will be donated for every household quote provided by State Farm Agency, Brian Hanson. Contact his office for details.



Schnucks E-Script

Register your My Schnucks card online at escrip.com/schnucks or by calling 1-800-931-6258. Show your card each time you check out and earn 3% of your purchase amount for Eastern Illinois Foodbank!

Amazon Smile

Amazon will donate 0.5% of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to Eastern Illinois Foodbank whenever you shop on AmazonSmile. Sign-in at smile.amazon.com, select Eastern Illinois Foodbank as your charity of choice and start shopping!

Midas Drive Out Hunger

Visit Midas in Champaign and they will donate \$1 from every oil change to Eastern Illinois Foodbank. Since November 2014, more than 1,100,000 meals have been donated to foodbanks nationwide.

Hunger Action Month

September marks national Hunger Action Month! Visit our website this fall to download our 30 Ways in 30 Days calendar featuring small ways you can fight hunger in our community, every day in the month of September.

STAY CONNECTED



Visit eifoodbank.org to stay up-to-date on our upcoming events. Contact the Development Office at 328-3663 for more information on specific events.