



PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

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Eastern Illinois Foodbank to Benefit from 2018 Hunger Relief Fund Tax Check-Off

URBANA, Illinois – Illinois residents have the option to make a donation to fight local hunger on their 2018 state income tax returns. By checking the box on Schedule G, the Voluntary Charitable Donations Form, a tax-deductible contribution will be made to the Hunger Relief Fund, a special fund in the State treasury, to purchase food grown and processed in Illinois to be distributed by the eight food banks serving Illinois, including Eastern Illinois Foodbank. Feeding Illinois, the state association of food banks, will collect the funds to purchase nutritious Illinois-sourced food such as fresh produce and protein products.

"As a member of Feeding Illinois, Eastern Illinois Foodbank will receive fruits, vegetables and other products from Illinois farmers and processors," said Jim Hires, President and CEO of the Foodbank. "This initiative will not only allow us to better serve our 18-county service area, but will allow Illinoisans to reinvest in local agriculture."

Approximately 1.4 million Illinois citizens struggle with hunger, including more than 100,000 living in eastern Illinois. Eastern Illinois Foodbank serves more than 58,000 people a month through a network of food pantries, agencies and other programs.

The Hunger Relief Fund income tax checkoff was an amendment to the Illinois Income Tax Act and went into effect January 1, 2019.

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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 more than 160 member agencies and programs. Through these agencies, the Foodbank provides meals to more than 100,000 men, women and children each year. The Eastern Illinois Foodbank is a member of Feeding America, Feeding Illinois, the United Way of Coles County, and the United Way of Champaign County. For more information, visit EIfoodbank.org.

About Feeding Illinois

Feeding Illinois is the association of eight Feeding America food banks that serve Illinois to provide food and other services to every county in Illinois through a vast network of member agencies and specialized feeding programs. As the state association for food banks serving Illinois, they help unify strategies and pool resources to strengthen and support the food banks' local efforts to eliminate hunger in Illinois. Feeding Illinois members work with a statewide network of more than 2,400 pantries, soup kitchens, shelters and other agencies to distribute or serve over 190 million meals annual to those 1.4 million hungry neighbors across the state. For more information, visit FeedingIllinois.org.