



Eastern Illinois  
**FOODBANK**

# 2019 **ANNUAL REPORT**

FISCAL YEAR 2019: JULY 1, 2018 - JUNE 30, 2019



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Youth Program Manager, Parkland College

**Marc A. Bralts, Vice Chair**  
Owner/Operator, Einstein Bros. Bagels

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Business Administrative Associate, University of Illinois

**Wade Hoey, Treasurer**  
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**Jim Hires, Ex-Officio**  
President & CEO, Eastern Illinois Foodbank

## THE HIRES REPORT



“

**This is not a burden for one person, one organization, or one sector of industry to solve. - Raghela Scavuzzo**

”

Dear friends and supporters,

Our annual report is filled with numbers and happy anecdotes about our community coming together to support a shared mission. But numbers and anecdotes don't drive the work we do. Individual stories are what inspire us, connect us, and keep us humble. Occasionally stories are so powerful they simply must be shared.

I've been in the field of food banking for many years but nothing I can share with you can be more compelling or help you understand food insecurity better than the words of Raghela Scavuzzo.

Raghela is Associate Director of Food Systems Development with Illinois Farm Bureau and I met her when she was a guest speaker at Food for Thought, a hunger-awareness luncheon we hosted during Hunger Action Month in September. During her speech, Raghela pointed out many Americans have been raised to believe food insecurity exists only amid "extreme poverty, in foreign countries, and on television commercials with sad music." Her own story shatters that perception. I implore you to read and share her story.

Thank you for working with us in the last year to address the issue of food insecurity in our community. In the words of Raghela, "this is not a burden for one person, one organization, or one sector of industry to solve." In the coming year we hope you'll continue to stand by our side as we ask ourselves "what more can we do."

*Jim Hires*  
Jim Hires  
President & CEO

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# The Faces of Hunger

**Eastern Illinois Foodbank hosted a Hunger Awareness Luncheon on September 17 at Sugar Creek Elementary School in Normal. Raghela Scavuzzo, Associate Director of Food Systems Development at Illinois Farm Bureau, was the guest speaker. She shared her very powerful and touching story of growing up with food insecurity to illustrate the face of hunger.**

**Here is Raghela's account of her experience with hunger in her own words (edited for space):**

"Childhood hunger. Those two words send an overwhelming brick into the bottom of my heart. It feels like a daunting topic that silently flows through the world plaguing us all directly or indirectly even when we may not realize it.

Nearly everyone can remember hearing the phrase 'Finish your plate, there are starving children in <insert a different continent>' to teach us to be less wasteful, take only what we need, and be grateful for what we have. Ironically, this perpetuates the concept that hunger only occurs in far off places. In fact, we struggle to acknowledge the epidemic we face right in our own backyards.

What does hunger look like? Well according to the world we grew up in; it is only extreme poverty, foreign countries, and in television commercials with sad music. But in reality "food insecurity" is often the faces that may surprise you.

My family was food insecure until I was almost nine. Very few in my community knew this fact. It was a shameful burden my mom hid. Why did she hide this? Simple, our last name was influential in the community and she was a schoolteacher in our small town. Not being able to pay our bills or buy food was not the 'dirty laundry' we wanted publicly acknowledged. In fact, to those outside our inner circle we looked like a privileged family.

I mentioned an influential last name and full-time schoolteacher mother. Those words in one's mind do not equal food insecure or childhood hunger. In some ways that was true and helped alleviate some of our silent burden. My mother's salary brought us above the poverty threshold. I

did not qualify for free or reduced school lunches. We did not qualify for government assisted programs. What those program requirements and others could not see was my father's medical and hospital bills. They could not see the fact that we annually maxed our health insurance coverage in prescriptions and had to choose to pay for his expensive life-saving medications before anything else. Others could not see the letters my mom would attach to the electric or rent bills informing them the check she was sending would

bounce but to please give us a little more time on the bill.

Now I can honestly tell you I never was hungry. This was only because my great uncles owned the grocery store in town. My mom, despite silently carrying our family burden to the public, was not too proud to ensure I had a meal no matter how ashamed she felt to ask for help. My dad passed away when I was seven. It took my mom years of hard work to build her credit and stop drowning in our financial problems. If I had not had a strong mother who put my needs above everything else, we would have never found our way out of the darkness. If we did not have a community that quietly held us together, I would not be standing here today.



*Raghela presents the Farm to Corner Store Project she coordinated for an economic development nonprofit in Alabama.*



*Raghela serves a meal to children in Rwanda where she worked as a research assistant and consultant for a USAID Innovative Child Survival Project with World Relief.*

“ **Anyone can be at risk of food insecurity. One single incident can change people's lives.** ”

So why did I share my deepest, most uncomfortable secret with you? Because childhood hunger or food insecurity can take the face of anyone. Not all children have a parent who can give as much as my mother did. Nor do they have silent helpers in the background. Until we begin acknowledging the situation in our own communities and watching with careful eyes, we cannot end this silent epidemic.

Anyone can be at risk of food insecurity. One single incident can change people's lives. So how do we solve this problem?

First, we must acknowledge that we have a problem in our own communities.

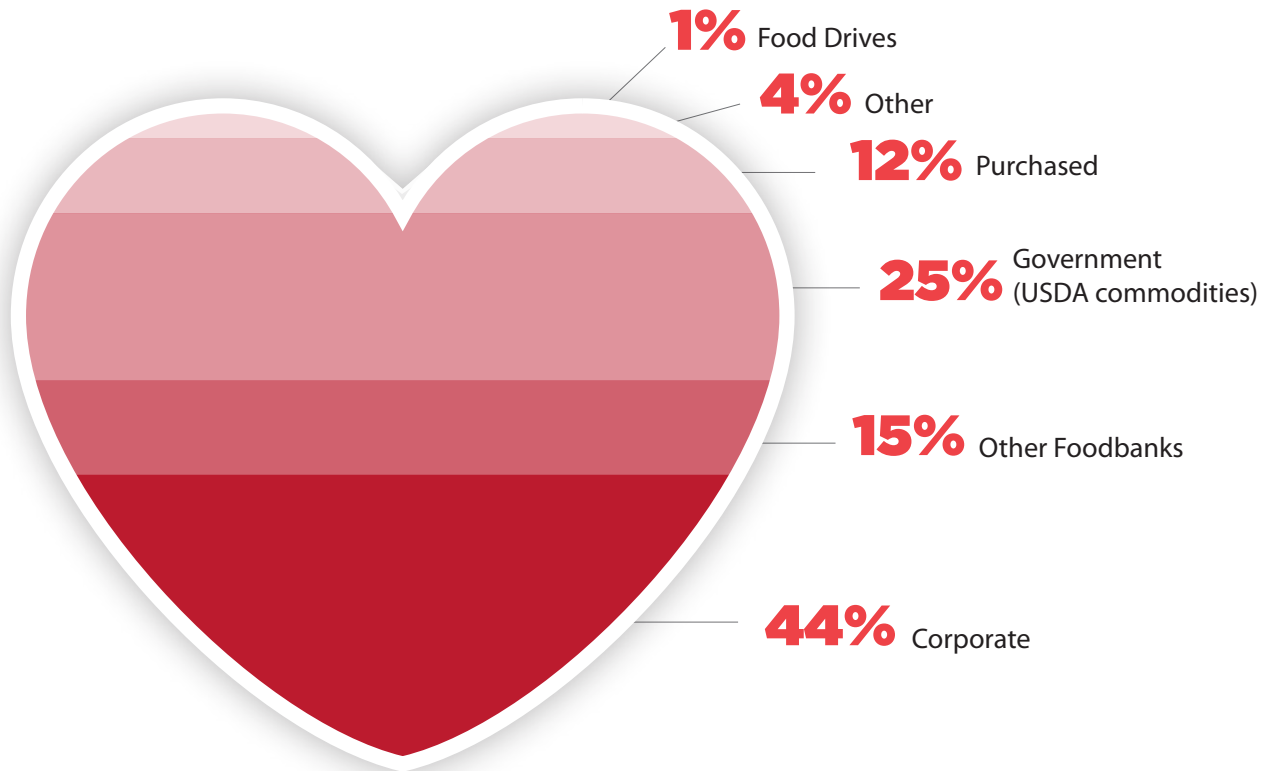
Second, we must remove the shame surrounding the problem and forcing people to carry the burden alone. “

**Continued on back cover**

# ANNUAL REPORT

*fiscal year 2019* 7/1/2018 - 6/30/2019

## WHERE OUR FOOD COMES FROM



*\*Due to rounding, totals are over 100%*

## FINANCIAL REPORT

### Public Support & Revenue

Contributed food	\$12,138,587.00
Contributions	\$2,050,301.61
Government grants & contracts	\$4,793,627.08
Other grants	\$239,760.13
Program revenue	\$458,918.68
<b>Total Public Support &amp; Revenue</b>	<b>\$19,681,194.50</b>

### Expenses

Program services	\$18,142,934.83
Fundraising	\$645,821.00
Management & General	\$288,597.67
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$19,077,353.50</b>

### Non-Operating

Investment income (expense)	\$29,586.89
Loss on sale of long-lived assets	\$(-)
<b>Total Non-Operating</b>	<b>\$29,586.89</b>

### Change in Net Assets

**\$633,427.89**

### Net Assets, beginning of year

**\$5,897,966.50**

### Net Assets, end of year

**\$6,531,394.39**



**Our fleet of 6 trucks traveled 160,000 miles last year,** delivering food and picking up donated product.

We distributed **29,000 pounds of food** at VFW Post 630.

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

**639,000 pounds of food,** including **172,500 pounds of produce** was distributed to more than **21,000 individuals** and over **8,000 children** through **53 Foodmobiles** held on Saturday mornings in rural and under-served communities.

We've **recycled over 48 tons of cardboard** from our facility.



**4,600 school children and their families** were provided food through our School Food Pantry Program.

**10.5 million pounds of food, including 2 million pounds of produce** was distributed to our network of partner food pantries, soup kitchens, shelters, and other feeding programs. **That's 8.75 million meals for children, seniors, and families in need.**



## Thank you volunteers!



### Our volunteers...

Repacked **122,625 pounds of food**

Distributed **532,000 meals** through Foodmobiles

**Helped raise \$291,000** by supporting community events

**And brought hope** to our neighbors in need.

## VOLUNTEER MILESTONES

**In FY19, 2,100 volunteers donated more than 11,000 hours of their time in our warehouse, office, and throughout our community.**

The following Foodbank volunteers also reached milestones in FY19:

**1,500+ HOURS**

Glenn & Laura Morrison  
Keith Hanson

**1,000+ HOURS**

Mike Crosby

**500+ HOURS**

Nancy Smith

**300+ HOURS**

Jennifer Greene  
Michael Barnhardt  
Leslie & Rita Schulte  
Wendy Harris

**Thank you to the donors who supported our mission in FY19.**

*For a list of donors, please visit [eifoodbank.org/news/newsletter](http://eifoodbank.org/news/newsletter)*

# MISSION IMPACT AWARDS

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



## BINNY'S

One of Eastern Illinois Foodbank's goals in the last fiscal year has been to increase our engagement with a younger audience and provide a more intimate volunteer experience. We toyed with a few ideas to reach this coveted demographic and settled on Do Good Date Night, to encourage volunteers to spend an evening with us in our warehouse, working in our repack room, and then enjoy a glass of wine when they are done. When we approached Binny's about donating wine for this new experiment, they eagerly donated 6 cases of wine at the Champaign store. **The event was a smashing success and we've gone on to host four more Do Good Date Nights**, of which Binny's has provided wine for them all. Binny's is doing more than donating wine, they are helping us reach our next generation of volunteers and donors.



## SHAWNA MARTELL

Shawna Martell is one of Eastern Illinois Foodbank's most engaged volunteers. She participates in food repacks, signs up for Foodmobile distributions, and recruits everyone she knows from family to co-workers to join her. Additionally, she is a key figure in organizing volunteers for the Prom Benefit, one of EIF's largest annual fundraising events. **Shawna is a passionate advocate for the Foodbank and her commitment to alleviating hunger in our community is truly inspiring.**



## MARVIN PIWONI

Marvin Piwoni comes in each week to volunteer doing general data entry. Between donations and volunteer hours, Marv has 313 entries in the EIF database. **To date, he has donated nearly 900 hours of his time helping us in the office.** In addition, he is always a friendly fixture around EIF. His friendly personality and dry sense of humor always make everyone smile. He cares deeply about what we do, and has become part of the EIF family.



## BRUCE WINTER & AMY BURNS

Every year, the Champaign Vesuvius office, where Bruce Winter and Amy Burns work, does their own internal drive to benefit the Foodbank. Between the two of them, they think up new and creative ways to engage

the Vesuvius office each year including a biscuits and gravy cook-off, a raffle, and auction that always includes baked goods from Amy's personal kitchen, and even a Vesuvius cookbook. **Through their annual drives, Amy, Bruce, and their colleagues have provided more than 260,000 meals for our community.** Because of Bruce and Amy's advocacy, every employee at Vesuvius understands the mission of the Foodbank and embraces the concept of working together to alleviate hunger in our community.



## HUNGER AVENGER AWARD

**Our first-ever, and likely last, Hunger Avenger Award was presented to Wendy Harris.** An avenger is defined as a person who exacts punishment or inflicts harm in return for an injury or wrong.

This sounds a bit harsh, but Wendy Harris is unrelenting in her attack on hunger. She treats it like a villain and has dedicated a significant portion of her time, talent, and treasure to defeating it.

In addition to being Eastern Illinois Foodbank's immediate Past Board Chair, **Wendy has volunteered at least 416 hours for EIF.** She has also served as a Foodmobile Captain, leading volunteers at EIF's mobile food distributions.

Like all avengers, Wendy also has a team of friends that she recruits to help her. They purchase tickets to the Prom Benefit and serve alongside her on the Board of Directors. **Wendy is a true embodiment of a hero in the fight against hunger.**



## LIFETIME GIVING AWARD

Clint & Tiffany Jackson's involvement with Eastern Illinois Foodbank began more than a decade ago when they attended the Prom Benefit for Hunger Relief. They loved the event and their business, Jackson Chiropractic, became the presenting sponsor while Clint and Tiffany chaired the Prom committee. **Prom Benefit has gone from raising \$8,025 in the first year to raising \$142,000 annually. In total, Prom has raised more than \$679,000 for EIF which translates to roughly 3.4 million meals.**

Clint and Tiffany are stepping to the side this spring. They will continue to support Prom but they have turned the planning and implementation over to EIF staff. We are sad to see them go, but Clint and Tiffany have turned Prom into a legendary event that feeds hundreds of thousands of people.

## COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Eastern Illinois Foodbank recognized the following partners for their significant support in FY19:



### BUSINESS PARTNER OF THE YEAR Fertilizer Dealer Supply

EIF's relationship with Fertilizer Dealer Supply began with an unsolicited donation in 2008. Over the last 11 years they've quietly supported the Foodbank with ever-increasing gifts. **Their cumulative**

**giving has provided over 750,000 meals for our neighbors in need.** The current owners, the Grady family, have provided an additional 183,000 meals through their personal giving. They truly are one of EIF's most exemplary business partners.



### COMMUNITY PARTNER OF THE YEAR University of Illinois Extension

One of last year's greatest successes was our Nudges Program pilot. EIF partnered with the University of Illinois Extension to implement changes called "nudges" with five partner agencies.

**Each pantry adopted healthy nutrition policies and redesigned their facility to encourage healthy food choices.** University of Illinois Extension provided training for pantry staff and a pre- and post-assessment tool. Because of the success of the program, EIF has been able to apply for grant funds to expand the program with the hope of implementing it more broadly across our network of partner agencies. We look forward to strengthening our partnership with U of I Extension in the years to come.



### FOOD DONOR OF THE YEAR United Natural Foods Inc (UNFI)

In the last fiscal year, UNFI donated 795,144 pounds of food to EIF, which equals 8.7% of EIF's total food distribution last year. In addition

to their food donations, they also facilitated a \$20,000 gift for EIF from Supervalu Foundation. **Between their food and monetary donations, they provided 762,000 meals for those struggling with hunger in our community.** UNFI is making a huge difference in our community.

2020

SAVE THE DATE | 3.7.20

# PROM BENEFIT



**Save the date for the most exciting fundraising event of the year!**

The annual Prom Benefit for Hunger Relief will be held on **March 7, 2020** at the Hilton Garden Inn in Champaign.

*Follow @prombenefit on Facebook for more information!*



## Fall Into Giving

As we enjoy the crisp autumn weather, colorful leaves, apple cider, and football, we're reminded that we have so much for which to be grateful. This fall, we're asking our community to come together to raise meals for families in need as we lead up to Giving Tuesday on December 3.

### You can participate in Fall Into Giving by:

- Donate food or funds at a public drive (find a list of participating business and schools on our website).
- Donate online. It's easy and makes a huge impact! **Every \$1 is the equivalent of 5 meals.**
- Volunteer! We'll be hosting a special Giving Tuesday Eve repack at our warehouse on December 2 from 7-9pm and then a Giving Tuesday morning repack on December 3 from 7-9am. **Find details and register to volunteer at [eifoodbank.org](http://eifoodbank.org).**

Fall Into Giving is a great opportunity for students, co-workers, and colleagues to get involved in giving back to our community. **Visit [www.eifoodbank.org](http://www.eifoodbank.org) and click on Fall Into Giving under the News & Events tab for more information.**

## Faces of Hunger continued

Third, we must continue to support school feeding programs, after school and summer feeding programs, backpack programs, food banks, and food access programs.

Finally, and possibly most importantly, we must work as a community to look at the problem of food insecurity. This is not a burden for one person, one organization, or one sector of industry to solve.

It is our responsibility as a community to collaborate and develop these solutions so that children do not fall through the unseen cracks. My hope is that today is the start of many conversations of how to build a stronger, more secure community."

**If you want to join our community and be part of the conversation about hunger, contact us at 217-328-3663.**