

INSIDE SCOOP



Eastern Illinois
Foodbank



The challenge definitely opened our eyes up to what so many others in our community go through on a regular basis.

Steve and Amy Young of Champaign

NEW LOOK... SAME GREAT FLAVOR

Just like much of the food that we distribute, our newsletter has taken on a new look. Don't worry, you'll still get the same great content & inside scoop as to what's going on at the Foodbank.

Newsletters will be published in November & May. You can always visit our website, www.eifoodbank.org, for real-time updates.



SNAP CHALLENGE

From September 20-26 members of our community participated in the SNAP Hunger Challenge, eating on \$4.50 per day per person. This is the average allotment for individuals receiving SNAP, or food stamps. The SNAP Hunger Challenge allows the participants to gain insight from living on a slim food budget.

Most participants noted having to adapt their shopping and eating habits, including purchasing cheaper or less nutritious foods to make it through the week of the Challenge. Katie Thomas, Director of Wesley Evening Food Pantry, observed, "One of the things I thought about as I did my shopping the day before was that some of the items at Aldi were cheaper elsewhere and perhaps I should shop around. However, not everybody has the luxury of time and transportation to go shopping from store to store for the best deals. I decided to stick to the store I was at."

Participants also noted that leftovers were essential in making it through the week. Steve & Amy Young of Champaign took the Challenge and shared how they felt while on the Challenge: "We struggled with portion control, knowing that many of our meals needed to also produce a leftover

lunch for one of us. There were a few days that I was very hungry, since I didn't eat as much for lunch as I was used to, and it was hard to concentrate at work. I felt like there were times all I could focus on was my stomach rumbling, and I had to really force myself to ignore the hunger. The challenge definitely opened our eyes up to what so many others in our community go through on a regular basis."

Katie shared these final thoughts on her last day of the Challenge: "I think many of us take for granted the convenience and variety of food we have. I certainly missed not having more fresh fruit and vegetables throughout the week. Eating leftovers ALL of the time is rather dull and feels restricting. I also spent a lot more time thinking about food this week than I normally do, as I was always thinking about having enough and appropriately rationing what we did have so that we would not run out."

We invite you to take the SNAP Hunger Challenge at any time during the year. Please be sure to share your experience with us and our community. Email us at marketing@eifoodbank.org or share your experience with on social media by tagging us in your posts.

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A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



“Now, more than ever, we must come together to support our neighbors in need.”

I'm sure you've heard the news by now that Eastern Illinois Foodbank has expanded our services to three new counties in east central Illinois. As of July 1, 2015, the Illinois counties of Livingston, McLean and DeWitt became part of the EIF service area. This addition means our service area has expanded from 14 to 17 counties. It is an exciting time in the Foodbank's history!

There are approximately 28,000 people in those counties suffering from food insecurity. In the past four months, we've been serving those in need with food assistance, truly affecting lives and providing hope. We still have lots of work to do in those areas of need but our staff is committed to the opportunity to get more food to hungry people.

You've also seen the unfortunate news about the State of Illinois budget seriously affecting our social service partners. We're lucky in that the Foodbank does not receive any state funding. However, many of our partner agencies do and are facing impossible decisions in light of the budget crisis.

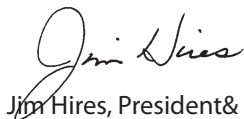
What does this mean for the community as a whole? It means that the lines at food pantries and soup kitchens

are getting longer. It means that there is a greater strain on all social service resources. It means that now, more than ever, we must come together to support our neighbors in need.

Take some time this holiday season to get involved in the fight against food insecurity. Whether it's volunteering at a soup kitchen or local food pantry, donating food, making a monetary donation to the Foodbank or one of our agencies or by simply spreading the word about the needs of our community, find a way to give back. You will enrich the lives of those we all strive to help and yours as well.

As always, thanks for your continued support. We simply couldn't continue our mission of alleviating hunger without you.

Happy holidays to you and yours!


Jim Hires, President & CEO

CONTACT US

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

www.eifoodbank.org



Eastern Illinois
Foodbank



SPECIAL THANKS



Special thanks to the following donors for supporting our Foodmobile Program:

- LyondellBasell
- Health Alliance
- Monsanto
- Pioneer Hi-Bred International, Inc.
- Silicon Valley Community Foundation & Yahoo Employee Foundation
- Wells Fargo Foundation

If you are interested in partnering with the Foodbank's Foodmobile Program and delivering hope to communities in need, please contact Kristen Bosch at kbosh@eifoodbank.org.

PARTNER LUNCHEON HONORS

It was fitting that on September 3, *National Hunger Action Day*, the Foodbank hosted its annual Partner Luncheon to recognize businesses and organizations that are actively advancing the mission of Eastern Illinois Foodbank. About 150 people gathered at the Hilton Garden Inn to celebrate and honor these leaders in our community.

Thanks to SuperValu, County Market and Illini Fighting Hunger for their continued support. Each is a true example for other groups in our community. Congratulations to each of our award winners! Their commitment to the issue of food insecurity personifies the Eastern Illinois Foodbank's mission of alleviating hunger and nourishing stronger communities.



SuperValu was presented with the 2015 Food Donor of the Year award.

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SuperValu has opened its arms and its facility to the Foodbank. Literally. SuperValu provides offsite freezer storage to EIF, free of charge. This in-kind donation allows EIF to accept & store frozen foods, mainly meat & complete meal product, more than we would be able to store in our own warehouse. We can take several loads of desirable food like protein and distribute according to demand.

Additionally, **SuperValu more than doubled their food donation from a year ago.** They also significantly **impacted the donations of others to the tune of thirty eight thousand pounds.** In all, **SuperValu donated roughly a quarter of a million pounds of food to Eastern Illinois Foodbank in fiscal year 2015.** Through their efforts, SuperValu was able to **provide enough food for 195,000 meals to families in our community last year alone.**



2015 Business Partner of the Year is County Market

The 2015 Business Partner of the Year is County Market, for their work in hosting last year's Day of Giving.

County Market was an early partner to jump on board, offering their parking lot at the busy intersection of Kirby and Duncan roads in West Champaign, as a host for the live event. On a very cold December 2, 2014, **County Market, along with other local schools and businesses, took this food and funds drive to a whole new level. Day of Giving 2014 set new records, raising \$110,000 and collecting an additional 7,600 pounds of food.** In total, **the campaign provided 666,333 meals for local families in need.** What an incredible impact!

The success of the campaign is a true testament to County Market's strong leadership, dedicated staff and loyal customers. Day of Giving 2014 wouldn't have been as successful without the support of County Market. Day of Giving is so much more than a simple food drive. It's a day of generosity. A day of hope. A day that changes lives for many right here in our community.



Illini Fighting Hunger was honored as the 2015 Community Partner of the Year.

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Back in April, Eastern Illinois Foodbank staff had the great honor of attending the 2015 Community & Campus Day of Service at Memorial Stadium. This event, hosted by the student group Illini Fighting Hunger, is the perfect example of collaboration and activism in our community.

On that Saturday, more than fifteen hundred volunteers came together to package over 160,000 thousand meals and an additional 56,000 servings of oatmeal. Nearly all of that food was donated to Eastern Illinois Foodbank from IFH.

Illini Fighting Hunger is more than just one day of community and campus support. Since 2012, this group of dedicated Illinois students has engaged **over 10,000 volunteers in more than 18,000 hours** of public service. They've **repackaged more than one million meals. 1,315,419 to be exact!**

COMMUNITY MATTERS

DAY of GIVING

December 1, 2015

A day of generosity. A day that will change lives in our community.

Every year during the holiday season, we're presented with countless opportunities to give. But what if there was a single day specifically designated to give hope to hungry neighbors in our community?

Last year, our community came together and donated more than 660,000 meals for our neighbors in need on *Day of Giving*. With your help we can raise even more meals for our community. We're calling on schools, businesses and organizations to take action against local hunger this season by organizing a food drive and/or fundraiser any time in the month November or December. *Day of Giving* will culminate with varying food and monetary collection points across our 17-county region on December 1st.

For more information on how your school, businesses or church can get involved in the community-wide effort, visit www.eifoodbank.org/dayofgiving.

"You wouldn't think hunger is a big issue out here."

When a fifth-generation farmer donates to Invest An Acre, he supports Eastern Illinois Food Bank and helps his neighbors facing hunger.



INVEST
AN ACRE



Eastern Illinois
Foodbank

INVEST AN ACRE

Harvest may be over but it's not too late for all you farmers to *Invest an Acre* with Eastern Illinois Foodbank. This program is a great way for anyone involved in agriculture to join the fight against hunger. Just make an online donation or send your check to the Foodbank. 100% of your donation, plus a dollar-for-dollar match will go to EIF and agencies in your area. *Invest an Acre* with Eastern Illinois Foodbank, doubling your donation and your impact. Visit investanacre.org or call 328-3663 for more details.

AGENCY SPOTLIGHT

Saint Vincent De Paul Holy Trinity Food Pantry

"Every day is memorable whether serving the unemployed, the homeless or giving a child a birthday cake, hot dog or ice cream."

— Steve Nolan,
Saint Vincent De Paul Holy Trinity
Food Pantry volunteer

The Saint Vincent De Paul Holy Trinity Food Pantry is located at 711 North Main Street in Bloomington and while they have been feeding McLean County for 35 years they are a new member agency to the Eastern Illinois Foodbank. The Food Pantry signed on with EIF in July when the Foodbank acquired three new counties.

Over the past year they have seen the need for their food pantry grow and served an average of 4,000 individuals in the last 3 months. Like the majority of EIF member agencies, Saint Vincent De Paul Holy Trinity Food Pantry operates entirely by the help of volunteers. The Food Pantry has a committed group of volunteers that range in age from 14 to 93, who manage everything from food acquisition and warehousing to front desk help, vehicle maintenance and, of course, the weekly food distribution.

Every Monday from 9am to noon and 1pm to 4pm, pantry volunteers distribute fresh vegetables from the pantry's garden, meat, yogurt, canned goods, bread and pastries to those in need in McLean County.

Eastern Illinois Foodbank is excited to have the Saint Vincent De Paul Holy Trinity Food Pantry as a partner in the fight against hunger. To find other EIF member agencies in your area, visit www.eifoodbank.org/help.