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## **Join Central Illinois Foodbank in Largest Single-Day Food Drive to Help Stamp Out Hunger**

*High Rates of Food-Insecurity Call for Much Needed Community Support*

Springfield IL., May 7, 2018– Central Illinois Foodbank is asking for Springfield’s support on May 12<sup>th</sup> as it joins America’s letter carriers in the 26th Annual National Association of Letter Carriers Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive. This food drive is the largest single-day food drive in the country. The event helps support local food banks and the one in eight Americans who struggle with hunger.

Springfield area residents can join Central Illinois Foodbank and support community members who struggle with hunger by simply collecting non-perishable food items and leaving them in a sturdy bag near their mailboxes on May 12<sup>th</sup>. A letter carrier will collect the donations and deliver them to Central Illinois Foodbank. Items will then be distributed to those facing hunger right here in central and southern Illinois.

In 2017, the Foodbank received 35,709 pounds of food from the one day collection. “Stamp Out Hunger is like no other food drive. It allows every community across the country to collectively come together on one day to do their part to fight hunger. We are so grateful to community members who donate non-perishable items and for the letter carriers who take the time to collect each bag to help fight hunger in central and southern Illinois,” said Central Illinois Foodbank Executive Director, Pam Molitoris.

According to Feeding America’s *Map the Meal Gap 2017* study, nearly 105,000 people in central and southern Illinois face food insecurity, including over 35,000 children. Stamp Out Hunger is the opportune time for the public to support neighbors who struggle with hunger.

The Stamp Out Hunger food drive was created in 1993 by the National Association of Letter Carriers to encourage communities to come together in an effort to stock the shelves of food banks and pantries nationwide. The event is held on the second Saturday of May each year. For 25 years, Central Illinois Foodbank and local letter carriers have worked together to contribute to the national food drive.

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### **About Central Illinois Foodbank**

Central Illinois Foodbank, established in 1982, distributes more than 9.4 million pounds of food annually to over 160 food pantries, soup kitchens, residential programs and after-school programs in a 21 county region. Central Illinois Foodbank is a member of Feeding America, the nation's largest hunger relief organization. The mission of the Foodbank is to collect donated food and grocery items from growers, manufacturers, processors, wholesalers and retailers for distribution to charitable agencies serving those in need, and work with public and private organizations to develop creative solutions to end hunger.

### **About National Association of Letter Carriers**

The 280,000-member NALC represents letter carriers across the country employed by the U.S. Postal Service, along with retired letter carriers. Founded by Civil War veterans in 1889, the NALC is among the country's oldest labor unions.