



Off the Shelf

Summer 2020



COMMUNITIES COMING TOGETHER





DIRECTOR'S DISH



Pam Molitoris

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Executive Director

Growing up when I would complain to my father about things being tough, he would say – Pamela, you have to have the valleys to enjoy the peaks. I think this sage advice holds true today more than ever. The last several weeks have been some of the hardest we have experienced in our lives. We truly hit a valley when we began to realize what was happening to our country, our state, and our local communities. As jobs were lost, as schools closed, as our social networks changed overnight, I began to ask myself the question – what is to come of us all?

It took a moment, perhaps a bit more than a moment if I am truthful, but the answer came to me. We would come together, we would get through this as our parents, our grandparents, and those before them did. And so, we have come together in ways I never imagined. Donors whose businesses are suffering losses, individuals whose investments are uncertain, volunteers who want to help their neighbors, have come together. Feeding America, Feeding Illinois, and our local networks of partners have come together to develop guidance on how to feed while keeping people safe. School districts moved mountains to make sure that children had breakfast and lunch while they were at home. Our government created bipartisan legislation to provide funding to purchasing additional commodities as we planned to serve more families that need food.

As I sit at my computer and compose this letter, I recognize that there is so much more work to be done and we do not know what the future holds. Today though, I am happy to enjoy this peak, the peace that comes from knowing that our communities have come together for the greater good.

FOODBANK PARTNERSHIPS

Thanks to the generous support of many, the Foodbank has been rapidly mobilizing to keep meals on the table for seniors, children and families across our communities. We are working with local, state and national partners to ensure that our neighbors still have timely access to food.

NATIONAL



Feeding America has been a reliable source of information - providing support, guidance and best practices for food banks and partner agencies across the nation.

STATE



Fundraising efforts from **Feeding Illinois** have helped food banks across the state secure funds to purchase additional food for the people we serve.

LOCAL



Local partnerships have been vital in helping us distribute food. Recently, Foodbank volunteers packed 500 bags of groceries for families of Springfield Public Schools - District 186 when the students were on spring break.

FEEDING OUR NEIGHBORS SAFELY

Our partner agencies have adopted creative distribution methods to ensure the safety of their staff, volunteers and people they serve. Below are some examples of the innovative strategies some of our partner agencies have implemented during this time.

SANGAMON CO.

Auburn Food Pantry | Auburn

Auburn Food Pantry implemented a drive-up model to serve clients while practicing social distancing.

“Our clients were very grateful to receive the additional fresh produce and milk.”

-Betty Ludek, Co-coordinator



MACOUPIN CO.

Staunton Helping Hands Center | Staunton

Staunton Helping Hands Center set up a curbside ordering system where volunteers take orders from guests outside and then volunteers inside the pantry assemble the orders.

“Younger volunteers have stepped up to cover for older volunteers that need to stay home.”

-Ailee Taylor, Co-coordinator

MACON CO.

Northeast Community Fund | Decatur



Northeast Community Fund initiated a drive-thru model where volunteers pack food boxes, move them along conveyer and load them directly into cars to maintain social distancing.

“We are so thankful that our agency is prepared to help and our services are being utilized. With uncertain times and unemployment increasing, we want to help combat food insecurity in our community into the foreseeable future.”

- Regan Deering, Board President



CARES ACT

Did you know?

The **CARES Act** included a new above-the-line deduction (universal or non-itemizer deduction that applies to all taxpayers) for total charitable contributions of up to \$300.

For itemizers, the law also lifts the existing cap on annual contributions, raising it from 60 percent of adjusted gross income to 100 percent.

For corporations, the law raises the annual limit from 10 percent of taxable income to 25 percent. Food donations from corporations would be available to 25 percent of taxable income, up from the current 15 percent cap.

The incentive applies to contributions made in 2020 and can be claimed on tax forms next year. Section 2204-2205. Please consult your tax advisor concerning the application of this law to your particular situation.

VOLUNTEERS



While our volunteer opportunities may have changed lately, we have a great group of dedicated volunteers who are committed to providing food to our neighbors.

Over the last few weeks our volunteers have:

- packed **500 emergency boxes** for potential quarantines
- packed **500 bags of groceries** for local students and their families
- **delivered produce** to senior living communities and schools

Our mission: To provide food, and develop awareness of and creative solutions for food insecurity.
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www.centralilfoodbank.org

Follow the Foodbank



Are you on Facebook, Twitter or Instagram?

Follow Central Illinois Foodbank for more stories about our volunteers, our partners and the people we serve. Connect with others and share your passion for ensuring that everyone has access to nutritious foods. For email updates, subscribe to our e-newsletter.

Foodbank Staff

- Pam Molitoris** • Executive Director
- Jane Kiel** • Finance Director
- Kevin Mackiney** • Operations Director
- Heather Austwick** • Compliance Manager
- Bob Bartolazzi** • Manager of Program Services
- Ashley Earnest** • Public Relations Manager
- Darren Farley** • Sort Room Supervisor
- Heidi Hughes** • Program Manager
- Wesley Ridgeway** • Program Resource Coordinator
- Gayla Stone** • Operations Assistant
- Cassie Veach** • Administrative Assistant