

To our Neighbors in Eastern Michigan:

The Food Bank of Eastern Michigan is a constant in the lives of thousands of hungry people in need on a daily basis in the 22 counties that we serve. But what I am even more proud of is our organization's ability to quickly adapt, anticipate, and meet new and unforeseen needs that arise in times of distress, such as this month's global COVID-19 (coronavirus) outbreak.

Our staff is actively engaged in conversations with trusted sources that include the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Governor's office, the Michigan Department of Education, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, and the Health Department to assess the community's needs and how the Food Bank, thanks to our network of more than 700 partners, our warehouse space, and our ability to quickly acquire and ship food to people in need throughout our service area, can lend support to and facilitate a well-coordinated response. We also work closely with many organizations that provide direct, on-the-ground support during emergencies, including the American Red Cross and United Way, to ensure seamless coordination of resources for the community.

The nature of the COVID-19 emergency is unpredictable and information disseminates and changes rapidly. But what we do know is that many of our partners, including schools, churches, small nonprofit organizations, healthcare facilities, and colleges are facing closures, limited hours, staffing shortages or other operational disruptions that present barriers to getting food to people in need. The Food Bank is working with our partners to assist students and their families with food while school is closed. We will continue to make sure seniors can get food, and we are looking at additional ways we can provide food in the community if food pantries face long-term closures due to the outbreak.

We pride ourselves on being a stabilizing force for families and partners in our community. Part of our ability to be flexible and adapt our operations to best serve the community in times of emergency relies on support through monetary donations. Unrestricted donations allow us to procure food, safely store it, to pay for transportation and mobile food distribution, and to offset other short-term increases in operational costs. Donations can be made through our website at www.FBEM.org.

Our team, with the leadership and support of our Board of Directors, has the utmost passion for our role as a trusted, reliable pillar of the community. We take immense pride in our ability to meet whatever challenges arise, to assist other organizations in proactively responding to emergencies and helping people meet their basic needs, and to be a stabilizing force in times of crises.

We will continue to update the community and our partners with any operational adjustments and ways to ensure people in need continue to get the food and resources they need. Please regularly check our website, www.FBEM.org, for information.

We are grateful for your support.

Sincerely:



President & CEO

Food Bank of Eastern Michigan