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**Feeding America Eastern Wisconsin bringing groups together to solve hunger**

*New programs/partnerships highlighted in 2015 Annual Report, "Together"*

**Milwaukee (February 15, 2016)** – Driven by a new mission and vision, Feeding America Eastern Wisconsin is bringing more people together around the table to address the root causes of hunger, according to the organization's 2015 Annual Report released today.

In 2015, the state's largest hunger-relief organization expanded its mission and vision and placed a new emphasis on addressing the root causes of hunger, said Charles P. McLimans, who completed his first year as president & CEO of Feeding America Eastern Wisconsin in January.

"We are changing the conversation around hunger and putting plans and policies in place that will allow us to realize our vision of a hunger-free Wisconsin," McLimans said. "We are continuing to provide increased access to healthy, nutritious food and are working to strengthen collaboration around the four pillars of household stability - food, health, housing and employment."

The new focus, McLimans said, is laid out in the organization's new comprehensive strategic plan adopted in September. "The plan serves as our road map as we continue to work with our partners and communities to provide quality food to those in need and to address and collaboratively solve the underlying causes of food insecurity."

Many of those efforts are highlighted in the 2015 Annual Report, *"Together."* According to the report, Feeding America Eastern Wisconsin:

- Partnered with more than 550 food pantries, meal programs and shelters to distribute the equivalent of 20.3 million meals to families throughout eastern Wisconsin.
- Collaborated with community and school leaders in Racine County to establish the Racine Area School Pantry, a partnership that serves nearly 400 families a month.
- Partnered with Columbia St. Mary's and Ebenezer Church in Milwaukee to establish a diabetic-friendly food pantry that provides healthy and nutritious food to those living with chronic disease.
- Opened a new food bank in the Fox Valley that will enable the organization to better serve its member agencies in northeast Wisconsin, ensuring families throughout eastern Wisconsin have enough healthy, nutritious food to eat.
- Increased corporate and individual support through increased financial support.

"The past year has been an exceptionally exciting time at Feeding America Eastern Wisconsin," said Ted Balistreri, chairman of the Board of Directors for Feeding America. "We're engaging the community and raising awareness. Together we can solve hunger."

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***About Feeding America Eastern Wisconsin***

*Feeding America Eastern Wisconsin is the largest, private, nonprofit hunger relief organization in the state. Founded in 1982 by the Rotary Club of Milwaukee, Feeding America Eastern Wisconsin is a local and independent member of the Feeding America network. As the leading provider of private hunger relief in the state, Feeding America collaborates with 572 partner hunger relief organizations, including food pantries, meal programs, shelters, and community-based mobile pantries to provide 18.3 million meals annually to 377,000 people across 36 counties in Eastern Wisconsin. Feeding America Eastern Wisconsin also supports programs that improve food security for people in need, advocates on their behalf, and works collaboratively to solve hunger.*

***Together we can solve hunger.***

*To learn more about hunger in Wisconsin, visit [www.feedingamericawi.org](http://www.feedingamericawi.org).  
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