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**Feeding America Eastern Wisconsin honors partners, donors**

*Inaugural 'Together We Can Solve Hunger Awards' presented at Annual Breakfast Meeting*

**Milwaukee (February 15, 2016)** – Roundy's Supermarkets, Gumz Farms, and William Bohn, of Associated Bank were among those honored for their dedication to solving hunger by Feeding America Eastern Wisconsin during the organization's Annual Breakfast Meeting Thursday.

"We know that solving hunger is not something anyone can do alone," Charles McLimans, president and CEO of Feeding America told more than 100 people who attended the organization's Milwaukee food bank for the Annual Breakfast Meeting. "We are fortunate to have many partners – from our corporate partners, to our partner agencies, to our many volunteers. It takes all of us working TOGETHER to solve hunger."

Among those honored with the inaugural "Together We Can Solve Hunger Awards" were:

- **Roundy's Supermarkets, Corporate Partner of the Year.** Roundy's donated 2.6 million pounds of food last year, which equates to 2.2 meals. Nearly all of that food was meat products, which provide vital protein to food insecure families. Roundy's also contributed more than \$60,000 through special events and promotions. Peter Crawford, Director of Deli and Food Services for Roundy's accepted the award.
- **Gumz Farms, Donor of the Year (Food).** Last year, Gumz provided over 5 million pounds of produce to the Feeding America network, including 23 truckloads directly to FAEW.
- **Dr. Fredrick & Kay Austermann, Donor of the Year (Funds).** In addition to providing consistent, monthly financial support as sustaining givers, the Austermanns host several tables at Feeding America's annual Grateful Plate event, introducing friends to the mission and encouraging them to get involved.
- **William Bohn and Patti Habeck, Distinguished Service Award.** Bohn, executive vice president of Private Client & Institutional Services, Associated Bank and Habeck, executive vice president, Feeding America Eastern Wisconsin led a successful capital campaign that enabled Feeding America to open a new 40,000 square foot food bank in the Fox Valley a year ahead of schedule. Bohn also contributes countless hours of volunteer time and is a top financial donor.
- **Ellie Trettin, Volunteer of the Year.** Trettin dedicated more than 10 hours each week for a 6-month period to helping Feeding America's development team, assisting with research and drafting grant requests and reports, and helping wherever needed.

- **Brigitte Sahlstrom and Amy Olson, Employee of the Year.** Selected by their peers, Sahlstrom, grants manager, and Olson, communications associate, tied for the honor this year. Sahlstrom wrote over 200 grant applications last year, securing over \$1 million in grant funding for Feeding America in 2015, a record for the organization. Olson grew the organization's online presence significantly in 2015, engaging with new audiences and helping to grow the organization's base of support. She also was instrumental in assisting with the organization's brand refresh.

Feeding America leaders also highlighted the year's accomplishments and previewed efforts in the works for 2016. During the past year, McLimans noted, the organization:

- Released a new mission statement, *To Solve Hunger*, and vision, *A Hunger-Free Wisconsin*, as part of a bold new strategic plan that is designed to move the organization from simply feeding the hungry to working with community partners to address the underlying causes of hunger.
- Opened a new 40,000 square foot facility in the Fox Valley on Nov. 1 that will enable Feeding America to provide a greater variety of food and innovative programs to more than 200 food pantries, meal programs, shelters and other partners in northeast Wisconsin. The new food bank will also be a center for community engagement, social innovation and nutrition education.
- Provided more than 24 million pounds of food to member organizations throughout eastern Wisconsin. That food provided 20.3 million meals to nearly 400,000 people.
- Received AIB certification. AIB is the food industry's monitoring organization that measures the highest and strictest standards for distribution center operations and professionalism. The superior rating reinforces that the food distributed by Feeding America is safe and of the highest quality.

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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). Join the conversation! Like us on [Facebook](#) and follow us on [Twitter](#).*