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**Thrivent Financial, Feeding America & Meals of Hope team up to help solve summer hunger**

**Milwaukee (May 17, 2016)** – Hundreds of employees from Thrivent Financial traveled by the busload to Feeding America Eastern Wisconsin to spend the day **packing nearly 200,000 nutritious meals to help ease summer hunger** in Wisconsin.

“We are proud to partner with Feeding America Eastern Wisconsin and Meals of Hope to pack meals for local families,” said Terry Timm, chief administrative officer at Thrivent Financial. “It’s inspiring to see employees and their families coming together to make a difference in the community by giving of their time.”

Meals of Hope, a national organization that has developed the model for the large-scale meal-packing program, provided the food for the event. The meals were packed at Feeding America’s new food bank in Appleton and distributed to the hunger-relief organization’s more than 550 members throughout eastern Wisconsin.

“We were thrilled to host this wonderful event,” said Patti Habeck, executive vice president of Feeding America Eastern Wisconsin. “This massive effort will provide vitally important, nutrient-rich meals for children throughout the critical summer months.”

For many families in eastern Wisconsin, summer is not the happy, carefree time many of us remember from our childhoods, Habeck said. “For many children, school is the place they know they are going to get a good meal thanks to the many school lunch programs. But when summer rolls around, many families struggle to fill that gap. Our Healthy Kids, Healthy Summer campaign is designed to raise awareness of summer hunger and provide resources to keep our children fed throughout the summer so they can return to school in the fall ready to learn.”

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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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