



Greater Chicago Food Depository
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 chicagosfoodbank.org

Dear Partners,

At one of our team meetings recently, several of my colleagues came up to me and offered me a safety pin. They felt that instead of all the talk about all the things that are wrong in the world, they wanted to show what was right and good. They wanted to demonstrate that the Food Depository is a safe place where everyone is welcome. As I sit here now and look at my safety pin, I know that regardless of whether we wear a physical pin or a virtual one, the sense of community it brings is what makes me so proud to work with all of you.

We believe a healthy community starts with food. When we sit around a table and share a meal, connections are made, conversations flow more easily, and barriers break down. Food is a unifier. Food is a tension reliever. Food can bring joy. And for our neighbors in need, food can bring hope.

The Food Depository is more dedicated than ever to supporting your work and ensuring that healthy food is available for every struggling individual and family during these uncertain times. Some people are hopeful for change while others are fearful. Online and in the streets, there have been messages of love and messages of hate. At the same time, we work and live in a community that often makes national headlines for the wrong reasons, including gun violence, racial tension and a state budget stalemate that continues to threaten our most vulnerable neighbors. We are united by our commitment that no one should go hungry and inspired by our vision that everyone in our community will have access to nutritious food to live stable, healthy lives.

So we want you and your clients to know that:

- No matter the color of your skin, we are here for you
- Whether you or your ancestors are immigrants or natives to this country, we are here for you
- Whether you practice Christianity, Islam, Judaism, another religion or none, we are here for you
- No matter who you voted for, or if you voted at all, we are here for you
- Whether or not you are a citizen, we are here for you
- No matter which neighborhood or town you call home, we are here for you

We are here for you – no matter who you love, what you think, what you look like, what your gender is or what you believe. You are our neighbor and our partner in the fight against hunger.

We will be here for you until the day that all of our neighbors have the food they need.

Sincerely,

Kate Maehr
 Executive Director & CEO
 Greater Chicago Food Depository



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Providing food for hungry people while
 striving to end hunger in our community.



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