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Sept. 14, 2020

Jewel-Osco donates more than \$1M to the Food Depository's COVID response
Funds to support Cook County families facing food insecurity amid pandemic

Chicago – In support of the Greater Chicago Food Depository's COVID-19 response, Jewel-Osco and its customers have raised \$1.26 million for local families facing food insecurity.

The generous donation was the result of Jewel-Osco's Nourishing Neighbors COVID Relief register campaign, which started in March at all 187 store locations. These funds will assist the Food Depository – the food bank serving Chicago and all of Cook County – as it meets the ongoing, unprecedented need caused by COVID-19. Many families continue to struggle to afford nutritious food as a result of the coronavirus pandemic, which has prompted mass layoffs, furloughs and other economic disruptions.

In recent weeks, the Food Depository's network of food pantries and similar programs has served an average of more than 120% more people in need compared to January.

"We have we never seen a need as great as this," said Kate Maehr, the Food Depository's executive director and CEO. "Despite these difficult times, we are inspired by the generosity of our local partners, like Jewel-Osco, and their customers. With their help, we can work together to ensure our neighbors in need have enough food on the table throughout this pandemic and beyond."

Jewel-Osco is also a leading food rescue partner of the Food Depository's, providing more than 5 million pounds of food this past fiscal year for local pantries, soup kitchens, shelters and other community-based programs.

"Jewel-Osco has a longstanding commitment to hunger relief and working with partners to distribute food to those most in need," said Mike Withers, president of Jewel-Osco. "We are grateful for the generosity of our customers, whose donations to our Nourishing Neighbors Community Relief campaign will help the Greater Chicago Food Depository fight hunger during these difficult times."

In fiscal year 2020, which ended June 30, the Food Depository distributed more than 93 million pounds of food, or 77.5 million meals – the largest amount by far in its 41-year history.

Increased donations and corporate support have made it possible for the Food Depository to keep pace with rising operational costs. The generous support has also helped establish new partnerships and provide additional resources to existing partners, particularly in Black and Brown communities that have been hard hit by the combination of COVID-19 and food insecurity.

Jewel-Osco has supported the Food Depository during previous times of crisis, donating gift cards to furloughed federal workers during the January 2019 government shutdown.

To learn more about or support the Food Depository's COVID-19 response, visit **chicagosfoodbank.org**.

Jewel-Osco is currently collecting donations for its Nourishing Neighbors Breakfast Campaign, which benefits several local anti-hunger organizations, including the Food Depository, providing children with nutritious breakfasts. To learn more or to donate, visit **jeweloscofoundation.org/our-programs/**

About the Greater Chicago Food Depository

The Greater Chicago Food Depository, Chicago's food bank, believes a healthy community starts with food. The Food Depository is at the center of a network of more than 700 partner organizations and programs – food pantries, soup kitchens, shelters, mobile distributions and other partners – working to bring food, dignity and hope to our neighbors across Chicago and Cook County. The Food Depository addresses the root causes of hunger with job training, advocacy and other innovative solutions. The Food Depository is a proud member of Feeding America – the national network of food banks. Learn more at chicagosfoodbank.org