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**April 16, 2021**

### **Statement on the Death of Adam Toledo**

At the Greater Chicago Food Depository, we are heartbroken by the death of 13-year-old Adam Toledo, who was shot and killed by a Chicago police officer in Little Village.

For the Food Depository community, the pain of Adam's death is particularly acute. Little Village is home to several of our incredible community partners. We know how tirelessly organizations like Amor de Dios, La Villita Corps and New Life Centers of Chicagoland work to provide food, opportunity and peace in their community.

Little Village is a proud neighborhood that has been hit hard by COVID deaths, job loss and food insecurity. Some of our colleagues call that neighborhood home. Along with our partners in Little Village, they are grieving the loss of another child to violence.

It is not nearly enough, but we grieve with Adam's family and our Little Village neighbors.

In our mission, we pledge to address hunger and its root causes. This includes the systemic issues of inequity and structural racism that led to this tragedy. We will continue to invest more in programs that will create real opportunities for young people of color and help them succeed in life. We will continue to advance equity in our food supply and distribution, and in our job training programs.

This tragedy serves as a reminder of how much important work we still have to do – and why we must never give up.

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