

St. Louis Area Foodbank Receives Agency Capacity Building Grant from ALDI

Grant helps the organization's partner agencies to safely store and distribute healthy food to area families

May 17, 2018 – The St. Louis Area Foodbank has been awarded a \$10,000 grant from ALDI for capacity building at the Foodbank's partner agencies throughout the bi-state region. The grant is awarded to aid in the growth and expansion of retail store donation programs in the network with an emphasis on both new and existing ALDI, Inc. agency retail partners.

The Foodbank used the funds to purchase water-resistant digital thermometers for food pantries in Missouri and Illinois that participate in the organization's retail store pick-up program or receive deliveries of food from retail stores at their location.

The St. Louis Area Foodbank's operation has changed significantly since its first year of service to the community in 1975 – moving from strictly donating non-perishable foods to a mix of both non-perishable and perishables. The perishable food, such as produce, dairy, and meat, is highly desired by low-income families.

For many people living throughout the Foodbank's 26-county service territory, a lack of access to fresh, nutritious food is the primary roadblock to healthy and balanced diets. In urban areas, the closest source of food may be a convenience store and in rural communities, the closest grocery store may be a great distance from their home. The Foodbank's partner agencies are the frontline in the fight against hunger and help provide the foods needed to make complete meals.

“The choice to purchase thermometers was made to enhance the focus on two of the most important aspects of our distribution strategy: food safety and healthy, fresh options,” said St. Louis Area Foodbank Agency Relations Manager, Sara Ruemker. “Our agencies are receiving more perishable items from the Foodbank and our retail store partners to meet client needs. This perishable food requires enhanced food safety efforts, such as frequent temperature checks. With that, we wanted to provide the agencies with the necessary tools to distribute this important product to clients in a safe and responsible way.”

The thermometers will be distributed starting this month and on an ongoing basis until they have all been distributed.

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About the St. Louis Area Foodbank

The St. Louis Area Foodbank began its service to the community in 1975. Since that time, the organization has grown to become the bi-state region's largest nonprofit 501c3 food distribution center dedicated to feeding those in need. Through a network of more than 500 partner agencies in 26 counties in Missouri and Illinois, the Foodbank distributes over 43 million pounds of food and personal care items annually. More than 392,000 people in the bi-state region rely on the Foodbank for assistance each year. For more information on the organization and the issue of hunger, please visit www.STLFoodbank.org.