



**Contact:**

Ryan Farmer, Director of Communications  
[rfarmer@stlfoodbank.org](mailto:rfarmer@stlfoodbank.org) | cell - 314.239.6062

**ST. LOUIS AREA FOODBANK RECEIVES \$16,000 DONATION FROM THE DARDEN FOUNDATION**

**ST. LOUIS, July 20, 2018** — **The St. Louis Area Foodbank** announced today a \$16,000 grant from The Darden Foundation to assist in their efforts of providing help to people facing hunger. The generous unrestricted grant will allow the Foodbank to allocate funds in areas the community needs the most, such as bringing in and distributing perishable food including fresh produce, dairy and proteins that are highly desired, but are not commonly donated.

“One in six people in the bi-state region is in need of food assistance,” said St. Louis Area Foodbank President and CEO, Meredith Knopp. “Hunger does not discriminate and there are many children, families, seniors, and military members who turn to our food bank and our network of partner agencies for help. The Darden Foundation’s donation helps us build stronger communities by empowering people with food and hope.”

The St. Louis Area Foodbank works every day to distribute healthy food for people living in eastern Missouri and southwestern Illinois. The organization is the primary provider of food and personal care items to more than 500 area food pantries, soup kitchens, shelters and other nonprofit feeding programs. With the community’s support, the St. Louis Area Foodbank was able to provide more than 35 million meals in 2017.

The Darden Foundation is committed to supporting families facing food insecurity in communities across the United States. Their commitment to help is demonstrated through their partnership with Feeding America and their network of 200 food banks across the nation. The Darden Foundation and its collection of restaurants has supported the St. Louis Area Foodbank through in-store promotions and volunteerism. Including this most-recent donation, The Darden Foundation has helped provide more than 160,000 meals locally since 2012.

The St. Louis Area Foodbank is a proud member of Feeding America and is the only Feeding America-affiliated food bank serving the region.

Feeding America has worked alongside The Darden Foundation for six years in the fight to end hunger. Thanks to their ongoing support, the Feeding America network has been able to help provide even more nutritious meals to families in need.

To learn more about Feeding America or to find your local food bank, visit [www.feedingamerica.org](http://www.feedingamerica.org).

---

---

**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](http://www.STLFoodbank.org).

**About Darden Restaurants and The Darden Foundation**

Darden is a restaurant company featuring a portfolio of differentiated brands that include Olive Garden, LongHorn Steakhouse, Cheddar's Scratch Kitchen, Yard House, The Capital Grille, Seasons 52, Bahama Breeze and Eddie V's. Our people equal our success, and we are proud to employ 180,000 team members in more than 1,700 restaurants. Together, we create memorable experiences for 380 million guests each year in communities across North America. The Darden Foundation works to bring to life our spirit of service through its philanthropic support of charitable organizations across the country. Since 1995, The Darden Foundation has awarded more than \$90 million in grants to non-profit organizations such as Feeding America, National Restaurant Association Educational Foundation (NRAEF) and American Red Cross. For more information, please visit [www.darden.com](http://www.darden.com).