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## **ST. LOUIS AREA FOODBANK RECEIVES \$16,000 DONATION FROM THE DARDEN FOUNDATION TO HELP END HUNGER**

**ST. LOUIS, August 21, 2019** — The St. Louis Area Foodbank announced today a \$16,000 grant from The Darden Foundation to help provide hunger-relief to families throughout the bi-state region. The funds will be used to help provide more than 64,000 meals to thousands of children, families, and senior citizens throughout 26 counties in eastern Missouri and southwestern Illinois.

“It’s hard to thrive on an empty stomach,” said St. Louis Area Foodbank President and CEO, Meredith Knopp. “Support from partners like the Darden Foundation helps us create a stronger, healthier bi-state region by increasing access to nutritious food for everyone and gets us one step closer to a day when no one in this community goes to bed hungry.”

The St. Louis Area Foodbank, a member of the Feeding America® network, is one of 193 food banks to receive this funding from The Darden Foundation. It is projected that this grant will help the Foodbank fund several initiatives, including school pantries and mobile food distributions.

The Darden Foundation is committed to supporting families facing food insecurity in communities across the United States. Darden Restaurants operating in the bi-state region include: Olive Garden, LongHorn Steakhouse, Cheddar's Scratch Kitchen, and The Capital Grille. Their commitment to help is demonstrated through their partnership with Feeding America and their network of 200 food banks across the nation.

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

To learn more about the St. Louis Area Foodbank, visit [STLFoodbank.org](http://STLFoodbank.org).

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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 individuals in need. Through a robust network of community partners and programs throughout 26 counties in Missouri and Illinois, the Foodbank helps provide 37 million meals 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), on Facebook at <http://facebook.com/STLFoodbank> and on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/STLFoodbank>.

### **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 185,000 team members in more than 1,700 restaurants. Together, we create memorable experiences for nearly 400 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).