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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Food Bank committed to long-term pandemic response

Organization's efforts lead to Lisa Scales Day celebration in Pittsburgh

Duquesne, PA (February 11, 2021) - For nearly a year now our neighbors across southwestern Pennsylvania have been struggling with job loss, social distancing guidelines and food insecurity. Feeding America's Map the Meal Gap estimates that in the wake of the pandemic, our region has seen a 42 percent increase in food insecurity since 2018. Under the leadership of Lisa Scales, president and CEO, the organization reinvented its operations to meet the demand through socially distant distribution models.

Because of Lisa's leadership and the organization's efforts, Pittsburgh City Council has deemed Thursday, February 11, 2021 as 'Lisa Scales Day' in the city.

"My colleagues on City Council and I were delighted to learn of Lisa's selection as 'Pittsburgher of the Year'," shared council president Theresa Kail-Smith. "Our proclamation of this special day in her honor is in recognition and appreciations of the many days over many years that she has worked to get vital nutrition to our neighbors."

This year marks the Food Bank's 40th year in operations. Scales has been with the organization for more than half of its existence, becoming president and CEO in 2012. Since she began her role as president and CEO, the Food Bank has delivered more than 250 million pounds of food to the community.

"We've always been committed to doing whatever it takes to meet the needs of the community and remain steadfast in that commitment amidst the pandemic," said Scales. "While today's honor is in my name, it truly belongs to the entire Food Bank staff, our partner network, volunteers and donors. The support we received this past year from public officials in our service area also played a significant role in our ability to keep up with demand. Through all of our combined efforts, we have been able to invent new, safe ways of serving our neighbors in need and will continue to be there until all of our neighbors have enough to eat."

Between March and December 2020, the Food Bank provided nearly 37 million pounds of food to the community. While the pantry network accounted for 29 million pounds of that, drive-up distributions and Doorstep Delivery, the organization's home delivery program, accounted for nearly 4 million pounds.

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