Contact: Lorri Rishar o: 517.853.6787 | c: 517.449.7435 lorri@edgepartnerships.com



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## Virtual statewide food drive to feed hungry Michiganders during COVID-19

Food Bank Council coordinating initiative to meet growing demand

**LANSING, MI** – The Food Bank Council of Michigan today called on every Michigander to help feed an ever-increasing number of children, families and seniors who find themselves without food during the COVID-19 crisis.

Coordinated by the Food Bank Council of Michigan, the initiative encourages donors to virtually shop for food items or make a direct donation at <u>www.MichiganFoodDrive.org</u>. In addition, contributors can select which of the state's seven regional food banks receives the donation. The Council will distribute undesignated funds and food to areas of greatest need.

"These are unprecedented times, and the need is tremendous," said Dr. Phil Knight, executive director, Food Bank Council of Michigan. "Food bankers across Michigan are among the many unsung heroes in the COVID-19 pandemic. They are making sure that hungry Michiganders get the food they need to survive during this crisis."

The demand on Michigan food banks has grown dramatically since state-ordered school closures in March. The increase includes nearly a million children and teens who relied on their schools for at least two meals a day. "They're your friend, your neighbor, your family. I urge you to come alongside us to help feed

Michigan," said Knight.

For more information on the Food Bank Council of Michigan's response to COVID-19, visit

https://www.fbcmich.org/covid-19/.

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Founded in 1984, the Food Bank Council of Michigan was created to implement a unified strategy to address and alleviate hunger statewide. FBCM works with its regional food banks and over 2,800 hunger relief agencies, private companies, farmers, state and federal officials, and other allies to make sure no Michigander goes without food.