



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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**Ohio Association of Foodbanks Receives \$20,000 Contribution from AT&T
*Foodbank network in need of significant support during this challenging time***

COLUMBUS, OH – The Ohio Association of Foodbanks today announced a \$20,000 contribution from the AT&T Foundation to support hunger relief efforts amid the novel coronavirus outbreak. The funding will be used to purchase much needed food and resources to benefit vulnerable Ohio children, adults and seniors who are struggling to make ends meet during this challenging time.

“We deeply appreciate the generosity of the AT&T Foundation and other organizations who have stepped up to help during this public health crisis,” said Lisa Hamler-Fugitt, executive director of the Ohio Association of Foodbanks. “That being said, there is still immense need for donations and support as the COVID-19 pandemic is causing mass layoffs, reduced wages, lost school meals, and significant financial pain for millions of Ohioans, which is forcing many into our food lines – often for the very first time.”

“We’re committed to being there when Ohioans need us most,” said Adam Grzybicki, president of AT&T Ohio and AT&T Great Lakes States. “Thank you to the foodbanks and their employees across the state who are working every day to help hungry people in this new world.”

In addition to the AT&T Foundation, ProMedica and Sodexo recently donated take-home containers and to-go bags, valued at \$7,400, which will allow foodbank staff and volunteers to continue serving Ohioans in need while minimizing person-to-person contact.

“Philanthropy has an important role to play now and going forward, and I encourage the philanthropic community to be as flexible and responsive as possible to help support our community and the challenges we face ahead,” Hamler-Fugitt said. “However, philanthropic donations cannot replace the critical role a strong and sustained response from the public sector provides. Our foodbanks have heightened needs right now and every contribution makes a difference.”

Since COVID-19 first started impacting Ohio, the association’s network of hunger relief providers has seen an enormous increase in demand statewide. Due to the increased need at all foodbanks around the state, the association is asking for more support from both the public and private sectors during this critical time of need, including immediate relief to help the network respond to short-term needs. Additionally, the network will need even more resources to meet the long-term needs to keep foodbank doors open for the millions of Ohioans that need help putting food on the table.

Ohioans and corporations looking to donate or volunteer, or seeking help with food, can visit ohiofoodbanks.org/coronavirus for more information.

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About the Ohio Association of Foodbanks

The Ohio Association of Foodbanks is Ohio’s largest charitable response to hunger, representing Ohio’s 12 Feeding America foodbanks and 3,600 member charities including food pantries, soup kitchens and shelters who serve all 88 counties in Ohio. Follow the association on [Twitter](#), stay connected on [Facebook](#) and visit them on the web at www.ohiofoodbanks.org.

About Philanthropy & Social Innovation at AT&T

AT&T Inc. is committed to advancing education, strengthening communities and improving lives. Through its community initiatives, AT&T has a long history of investing in projects that create learning opportunities; promote academic and economic achievement; or address community needs. The company’s signature philanthropic initiative, [AT&T Aspire](#), drives innovation in education to

promote student success in school and beyond. With a financial commitment of \$500 million since 2008, AT&T is leveraging technology, relationships and social innovation to help all students make their biggest dreams a reality.

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