



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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**Longtime Ohio Anti-Hunger Advocate Awarded Prestigious National Honor  
Lisa Hamler-Fugitt named Feeding America's 2015 Dick Goebel Public Service Awardee**

**COLUMBUS** – During today's National Anti-Hunger Policy Conference, held in Washington, D.C., Ohio Association of Foodbanks executive director Lisa Hamler-Fugitt was named the 2015 Dick Goebel Public Service Award recipient.

The Dick Goebel Public Service Award was created in 2001 by Feeding America in honor of the late Richard "Dick" Goebel. Goebel was founder of Second Harvest Heartland in St. Paul and a powerful force in the creation and expansion of the foodbank network nationwide. Recipients of this award exemplify public service to their communities, extensive public policy advocacy and tireless energy and creativity in developing solutions to help reach those struggling with hunger.

"Lisa never gives up and the energy, passion and creativity she brings to her work every day is an inspiration," said Bob Aiken, CEO of Feeding America. "Nowhere can this commitment be seen as strongly as with Lisa's steadfast commitment to advocacy at all levels of government. She challenges and encourages elected officials, community leaders and other organizations to do more to help hungry Ohioans."

Hamler-Fugitt has served as the executive director of the Ohio Association of Foodbanks since 2001, responsible for representing Ohio's 12 Feeding America foodbanks, their 3,300 member hunger relief organizations and the more than 2 million food insecure Ohioans they serve each year.

"We are fortunate in Ohio to have a leader like Lisa who cares so deeply about food insecure individuals and families," said Dan Flowers, president and CEO of the Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank and board chair of the Ohio Association of Foodbanks. "She works day in and day out to make sure that no one goes hungry in our state. She inspires all of us in the world of hunger relief to work more innovatively and effectively. And she is committed to working with elected officials, at every level of government, to bring about collaborative solutions to hunger and poverty. On behalf of our board of trustees, I congratulate Lisa on this prestigious and well-deserved honor."

Previously, Lisa worked as the public policy director and statewide food and nutrition program coordinator for the Ohio Hunger Task Force. She currently serves on the Ohio Livestock Care Standards Board, in addition to affiliations with numerous organizations working to eliminate poverty in Ohio.

**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 3,300 member charities including food pantries, soup kitchens and shelters. In SFY 2014, the association and its member foodbanks were able to acquire and distribute over 186 million pounds of food and grocery items. The association also serves as the home of The Ohio Benefit Bank and operates the state's largest navigator program for the Affordable Care Act. Follow the association on [Twitter](#), stay connected on [Facebook](#) and visit them on the web at [www.ohiofoodbanks.org](http://www.ohiofoodbanks.org).*

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