

FEEDING WISCONSIN AND FEEDING AMERICA NETWORK RAISE AWARENESS OF THE ISSUE OF HUNGER THROUGHOUT HUNGER ACTION MONTH

Hunger-Relief Organizations Encourage the Public to Join Spoontember this September and Support the 49 Million People Who Struggle with Hunger in America

Madison, WI (September 1, 2015) – Feeding Wisconsin, a Partner State Association of Feeding America[®] the national network of food banks, will observe Hunger Action MonthTM – a nationwide initiative designed to mobilize the public to take action on the issue of hunger and join the movement to help end hunger. Hunger advocates from Wisconsin and across the country are working together this September to shine a light on the issue of hunger and the 1 in 6 people who face hunger in America – including 714,000 here in Wisconsin.

"While one in eight people, including over 270,000 children in Wisconsin deal with hunger on a daily or weekly basis, this is a solvable problem. Feeding Wisconsin and our network of six regional Feeding America food banks and over 1500 affiliated local programs are eager to inspire action around Hunger Action Month," said David Lee, Executive Director of Feeding Wisconsin. "Hunger is an issue that affects everyone – our child's classmate, an office coworker or neighbor down the street. September is an opportunity for all hunger-relief advocates to take simple steps towards supporting those in need."

The Feeding America network is participating in the new SpoontemberTM online initiative. To get involved, supporters can share a 'spoon selfie' or video of themselves balancing a spoon on their nose – a utensil that is most often used to prepare and provide food for others – and challenge friends and family to join them to generate awareness of the 49 million Americans who may not know where they'll find their next meal.

In addition, Feeding Wisconsin and its member food banks will commemorate Hunger Action Day[®], which will be held Thursday, September 3. Hunger Action Day is an opportunity for the country to learn more about how hunger affects their community. Regional Hunger Action Day 2015 events in include:

- Milwaukee: <u>http://feedingamericawi.org/events/hunger-action-day</u>
- Madison: <u>http://www.secondharvestmadison.org/events/featured/go-orange-and-fight-hunger-on-september-3</u>
- Eau Claire: <u>http://www.fmpfoodbank.org/upcoming_events.phtml?m=09&y=2015</u>

"Domestic hunger affects every community in our nation, preventing millions of families, seniors and children from thriving," said Matt Knott, president of Feeding America. "This September we all are given a chance to come together and make a difference for those facing hunger."

Wisconsin food banks will also be providing several opportunities for community members to get involved in Hunger Action Month: <u>http://www.feedingwi.org/about/events/</u>.

Individuals can also help show their support for hunger relief and Spoontember by joining the Hunger Action Month Thunderclap on Hunger Action Day, Thursday September 3, at 12pm EST. By visiting the Hunger Action Month <u>Thunderclap page</u>, advocates can synchronize a Thunderclap Facebook and Twitter message to be shared in tandem with thousands of others to raise awareness about domestic hunger.

Feeding Wisconsin is one of 20 Partner State Associations in the Feeding America network of food banks. The Feeding America network serves every county in the United States and provides over 3 billion meals each year to Americans in need.

To learn more about Feeding America's Hunger Action Month and Spoontember, please visit www.hungeractionmonth.org.

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About Feeding Wisconsin

Feeding Wisconsin is the statewide association of the six Feeding America food banks that provide food to all seventy-two counties of Wisconsin. Its mission is to coordinate, support and enhance the work of its members by securing food and funds, raising public awareness and creating the partnerships necessary to end hunger. More than 573,000 people in Wisconsin rely on food from our member food banks for nearly 40 million meals. Together, we are striving forward toward a hunger free Wisconsin. Visit www.FeedingWI.org and follow us on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and Pinterest.

About Feeding America

Feeding America is the nationwide network of 200 food banks that leads the fight against hunger in the United States. Together, we provide food to more than 46 million people through 60,000 food pantries and meal programs in communities across America. Feeding America also supports programs that improve food security among the people we serve; educates the public about the problem of hunger; and advocates for legislation that protects people from going hungry. Individuals, charities, businesses and government all have a role in ending hunger. Donate. Volunteer. Advocate. Educate. Together we can solve hunger. Visit www.feedingamerica.org, find us on Facebook or follow us on Twitter.

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