



For Immediate Release

Northern Illinois Food Bank Welcomes Four Executives to Board of Directors

GENEVA, Ill., Sept. 28, 2021 – Four business executives have joined the board of directors of Northern Illinois Food Bank. They include: Former Mondelez International Financial Executive **David Brearton**, CogniTek CEO/CTO and MG Fuels Founder/CEO **Michael Gurin**, IDEO Executive Director **Justin Massa**, and YouTech Founder and CEO **Wilbur You**.

“We’re excited to welcome David, Justin, Michael and Wilbur into the Food Bank Family.” said Julie Yurko, President and CEO of Northern Illinois Food Bank. “Their incredible energy and insights into growing successful businesses will be invaluable for the Food Bank as we begin executing our new strategic plan. We look forward to their leadership and knowledge.”

Brearton has over three decades of experience in corporate finance. In 2015, David was Executive Vice President of Strategic Initiatives at Mondelez International. Prior to that, he spent two years as Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer of Mondelez. Before his time at Mondelez, Brearton spent decades at Kraft Foods, as Executive Vice President, Chief Financial Officer, and many other executive roles. Brearton is longtime donor of the Food Bank, and he was a member of Feeding America’s board of directors for eight years, serving as Board Chair from 2010 to 2014. Brearton is currently serving as Treasurer of the board of GLASA (Great Lakes Adaptive Sports Association). He and his wife, Louise, reside in Lake Forest.

Gurin has over three decades of experience in the materials science and energy industries, and he holds over 60 patents. Gurin is CEO and CTO of CogniTek, a clean energy technology and research company. He has spun out numerous companies from CogniTek including MG Fuels, HygraTek and Aivance Health. Additionally, Gurin is CEO of MG Fuels, a sustainable energy solutions company that uses biomass to produce distributed power and liquid fuels. He is also CEO of HygraTek in Ann Arbor, Mich., which is developing functional coatings that have applications in the manufacturing, aerospace, automotive and many others. One application is a cost-effective and energy-efficient liquid separation technology with a focus on separating oil from water. Gurin regularly volunteers at the Food Bank’s Mobile Markets in Highwood. He lives in Glenview with his wife, Shelley.

Massa is Executive Director at IDEO’s Chicago studio and leads business development for IDEO in North America. His work centers on connecting industries, companies and governments that have historically lagged behind with necessary technology and data. At IDEO, Massa’s clients include the Ford Motor Company, Westfield Insurance/1848 Ventures, and Shure. Massa was previously the founder and president of Food Genius, a venture-backed big data and analytics company in the food industry. Prior to Food Genius, Massa was the Director

of Project and Grant Development at the Metro Chicago Information Center, and he co-founded and served as Executive Director of MoveSmart.org. Massa has worked as a consultant with Northern Illinois Food Bank's My Pantry Express program since 2020. Born and raised in New Orleans, Massa now lives in Chicago.

You is the CEO and Founder of Youtech & Associates, a marketing and advertising agency headquartered in Naperville, Scottsdale, Ariz., and Plano, Texas. Youtech was ranked 2,683 on the Inc. 5,000 list (list of the 5,000 fastest growing companies). Youtech's clients include MillerCoors, Chick-fil-A and 3M. He started the company in 2012, while still a student at Northern Illinois University. He was recently named to the 2021 Forbes Magazine's Annual 30 Under 30 list. He is an Advisory Board Member to The Alkaline Water Company, Inc. and is Managing Partner of UrbanMatter Chicago. In 2020, he released his memoir "Happy. Humble. Motivated." You and his team are supporting the Food Bank's direct-to-neighbor marketing strategy. He resides in Naperville.

Northern Illinois Food Bank board members serve four-year terms and provide strategic counsel on the Food Bank's mission and other directives to the Food Bank's Executive Team.

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About Northern Illinois Food Bank

Our vision at [Northern Illinois Food Bank](#) is for everyone in Northern Illinois to have the food they need to thrive. A 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization and proud member of [Feeding America](#), we serve our neighbors in 13 counties with dignity, equity and convenience, providing 250,000 meals a day. We bring together manufacturers, local and corporate grocers, area farmers, corporations, foundations and individuals who donate food and funding, and each week nearly 1,000 volunteers help us evaluate, repack and distribute food. We also proudly partner with more than 900 food pantries, soup kitchens, shelters, and youth and senior feeding programs to provide nutritious food and resources. Our distribution centers are located in Geneva, Park City, Rockford and Joliet. Find out how you can [get help](#), [volunteer](#), [donate](#) or [get involved](#) at [SolveHungerToday.org](#), or follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#) and [LinkedIn](#).

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