

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Chicago-area Food Banks Receive \$400,000 Donation through
Bank of America COVID-19 Employee Booster Initiative**

Bank of America donated \$100 for each bank employee who recorded a COVID-19 vaccine or booster shot, and made an additional company contribution

CHICAGO – Bank of America today announced it is donating \$400,000 to Chicago-area food banks – \$200,000 to the Greater Chicago Food Depository and \$200,000 to the Northern Illinois Food Bank – helping them to provide approximately 1.2 million meals for families experiencing hunger across Chicagoland.

The donation stems from an initiative to encourage COVID-19 vaccinations and boosters while supporting hunger relief organizations in the local community. Earlier this year, Bank of America announced it would make a \$100 donation to local food banks for each employee in Chicago who received a COVID-19 booster shot or vaccine and notified the bank before the end of January. The company made an additional contribution to address the increased need experienced by these organizations.

“As the pandemic continues to impact Chicago, food banks and hunger relief organizations are experiencing increased demand and higher costs to meet the needs of those in our community,” shared Rita Cook, president of Bank of America Chicago. “Our commitment to help strengthen the communities we live in and serve is unwavering, which is why we are investing in the health, safety and wellbeing of our teammates while also providing funds to help local organizations like Greater Chicago Food Depository and Northern Illinois Food Bank fight food insecurity.”

According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, an estimated [38 million people](#) were food insecure in the United States in 2020. As the pandemic continues, hunger relief organizations in Chicago and across the country are facing ongoing challenges, including increased demand for their services and rising food prices.

“Food insecurity is more prevalent than ever in our communities,” said Maeven Sipes, Chief Philanthropy Officer at Northern Illinois Food Bank. “Today, we are serving 20% more of our neighbors each month than we did pre-pandemic through our network of pantries and our direct-to-neighbor programs. This gift from Bank of America will help us meet this unprecedented need and provide nutritious food our neighbors need to thrive during this challenging time.”

Nationally, the bank has committed \$10.6 million dollars to food banks and hunger relief organizations through this effort. Since 2015, Bank of America has donated nearly \$150 million toward hunger relief efforts.

“The Food Depository is incredibly grateful for this generous gift from Bank of America and their Chicago employees,” said Kate Maehr, executive director and CEO of the Greater Chicago Food Depository. “As families across Chicago and Cook County continue to navigate the COVID-19 crisis, this gift of \$200,000 will help hundreds of thousands of our neighbors, ensuring they have food on the table and hope for their future.”

Bank of America has encouraged staff to get COVID-19 vaccinations since summer 2021 and has offered incentives such as paid time-off and \$500 credits towards health benefit premiums. In partnership with local nonprofits, Bank

of America has also distributed more than 38 million masks, 41,000 cases of hand sanitizer and 11 million gloves in local communities as part of its ongoing efforts to address health-related disparities accelerated by the pandemic.

The company committed to donating a minimum of \$25,000 in each of the company's 93 markets to local nonprofit partners as part its vaccine booster effort. Because vaccination boosters and reporting are voluntary and additional company contributions are reflected in the final amount, actual donation amounts differ from the number of boosters reported by bank employees.

For more information about Bank of America's efforts to help build a stronger, more inclusive Chicago, please visit www.bankofamerica.com/chicago.

About Greater Chicago Food Depository

The Greater Chicago Food Depository, Chicago's food bank, believes a healthy community starts with food. The food Depository is at the center of a network of more than 700 partner organizations and programs – food pantries, soup kitchens, shelters, mobile distributions and other partners – working to bring food, dignity and hope to our neighbors across Chicago and Cook County. The Food Depository addresses the root causes of hunger with job training, advocacy and other innovative solutions. The Food Depository is a proud member of Feeding America – the national network of food banks. Learn more at chicagosfoodbank.org.

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.

About Bank of America

At Bank of America, we're guided by a common purpose to help make financial lives better, through the power of every connection. We're delivering on this through responsible growth with a focus on our environmental, social and governance (ESG) leadership. ESG is embedded across our eight lines of business and reflects how we help fuel the global economy, build trust and credibility, and represent a company that people want to work for, invest in and do business with. It's demonstrated in the inclusive and supportive workplace we create for our employees, the responsible products and services we offer our clients, and the impact we make around the world in helping local economies thrive. An important part of this work is forming strong partnerships with nonprofits and advocacy groups, such as community, consumer and environmental organizations, to bring together our collective networks and expertise to achieve greater impact. Learn more at about.bankofamerica.com, and connect with us on Twitter ([@BofA_News](https://twitter.com/BofA_News)).

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