



Northern Illinois Food Bank Announces President & CEO Julie Yurko Joins Global FoodBanking Network Board of Directors

Geneva, IL (March 11, 2025) – Northern Illinois Food Bank is proud to announce that its President and CEO, [Julie Yurko](#), was appointed to the [Global FoodBanking Network](#) (GFN) Board of Directors, effective December 2024. Yurko joins a distinguished group of global leaders dedicated to advancing food security and reducing hunger worldwide.

Since joining Northern Illinois Food Bank in 2009 and assuming the role of President and CEO in 2014, Yurko has led transformative initiatives to expand food access across the region, including successfully guiding the Food Bank’s goal to ensure that there is equitable access to food in the more than 900 communities served by the Food Bank. In 2020, Yurko launched *Strategic Plan UNITE*, a bold strategy designed to provide a more dignified, equitable, and convenient experience for neighbors facing food insecurity.

GFN is a global nonprofit network of 63 organizations across more than 51 countries, working together to fight hunger and reduce food waste. The network served 41 million people in 2023, compared to 9 million in 2018. As a Board Member, Yurko will contribute to GFN’s mission of expanding food access, fostering innovation, and strengthening food bank networks worldwide. The Board is critical in guiding GFN as it works toward its *North Star Goal* of feeding 50 million people by 2030.

“I am honored to be part of the GFN mission and am excited to share my passion for building neighbor-centered charitable food systems for those we serve,” says Yurko. “This opportunity will help me grow, learn, and give back to a mission and organization I care deeply about.”

Lisa Moon, President and CEO of The Global FoodBanking Network, welcomed Yurko’s appointment, saying, “Julie is an exceptional leader whose experience in community-centered food banking will help shape GFN’s future. We are excited to have her insight and dedication as we continue working to nourish people.”

Yurko will be joining newly elected Board Chair Sachin Gupta, Managing Director and Global Portfolio Manager, along with four newly appointed GFN Board members: Juan José Freijo, Chief Sustainability and Product Innovation Officer at Brambles; Melissa Ho, former Senior Vice President of Freshwater & Food at the World Wildlife Fund; Linda Nageotte, President and Chief

Operating Officer of Feeding America's National Office; and Keith Williams, board member for various organizations and former CEO of Underwriters Laboratories.

For more information about Northern Illinois Food Bank, visit SolveHungerToday.org and for GFN, FoodBanking.org.

About Northern Illinois Food Bank

For over 40 years, [Northern Illinois Food Bank](https://NorthernIllinoisFoodBank.org) has been dedicated to solving hunger and empowering neighbors. 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, Lake Forest, Rockford and Joliet.