

MIDWEST FOOD BANK SETS GOAL OF ONE MILLION MEALS FOR GIVING TUESDAY
GROWMARK SPONSORING 2019 CAMPAIGN

Date: November 11, 2019

Bloomington-Normal, IL – Midwest Food Bank

The holiday season is underway, and Midwest Food Bank (MFB) is looking to you to help feed those in need. With the help of donations and volunteers from the area, the goal is to provide one million Tender Mercies meals to their partner agencies by Giving Tuesday. Tender Mercies is MFB's nutritious rice and beans meal, and Giving Tuesday is December 3, 2019, the Tuesday after Thanksgiving.

The cost of one Tender Mercies meal is 15¢, making the donation goal of one million meals \$150,000. Sponsor donors have committed matching donations, lowering the amount needed to \$75,000. GROWMARK, a long-time supporter of MFB, has committed \$40,000 in matching sponsorship for the One Million Meals goal.

Throughout the month, Midwest Food Bank will be accumulating donations toward the goal. Meal packing events, goal updates, and other promotional information will be available on MFB's web and social media sites. GROWMARK, Illinois Farm Bureau, and COUNTRY Financial employees will be hand-packing Tender Mercies meals at their Bloomington headquarters on Monday, November 18.

"We are thankful for the generous sponsorship from GROWMARK," said Tara Ingham, Executive Director of Midwest Food Bank Bloomington-Normal. "Their partnership in financial and volunteer support is key to Midwest Food Bank reaching the One Million Meals goal."

"Farmers have an obvious connection to feeding others. And as a farmer-owned agricultural organization, it only makes sense to help support Midwest Food Bank," explained Amy Bradford, GROWMARK Corporate Communications Manager. "We're excited to help Midwest Food Bank reach their goal of one million Tender Mercies meals."

Visit midwestfoodbank.org/givingtuesday for details on the campaign and to donate online. Donations are also accepted by mail at Midwest Food Bank.

About GROWMARK: GROWMARK is an agricultural cooperative with annual sales of \$8.5 billion (FY 2018 data) providing agronomy, energy, facility planning, and logistics products and services, as well as grain marketing and risk management services throughout North America. Headquartered in Bloomington, Illinois, GROWMARK owns the FS trademark, which is used by affiliated member cooperatives. More information is available at www.growmark.com.

About Midwest Food Bank: Midwest Food Bank has eight locations in the United States, and one each in Africa and Haiti. Their mission is to alleviate hunger by gathering and distributing food donations to not-for-profits and disaster sites at no cost to the recipients.