



PRESS RELEASE
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CONTACT: Michael Cerio
942-6325 x 213 or cell: 743-8269

Rhode Island Community Food Bank Appoints **5 New Members to Board of Directors**

PROVIDENCE, R.I. The Rhode Island Community Food Bank is pleased to announce the appointment of five new members to their Board of Directors. The organization, which is affiliated with America's Second Harvest, the Nation's Food Bank Network, is governed by a 24-member Board of Directors, elected annually by the Food Bank's member agencies. The newest elected members are: Gerry Fernandez, Amanda Frye Leinhos, Susan Santos, Dale Venturini and William Walter.

Gerry Fernandez is the President and Founder of the Multicultural Foodservice & Hospitality Alliance, a national non-profit, based in Providence, which promotes the economic benefits of diversity and inclusion in the foodservice and hospitality industries. As an industry representative, Mr. Fernandez serves on the board of the National Restaurant Association and spent a number of years working for General Mills. He chose to become involved with the Food Bank out of his desire to lend his expertise to serving the communities of our state and those in need of help.

Amanda Frye Leinhos is the Executive Director of the Martin Luther King Jr. Community Center in Newport—a member agency of the Food Bank's network. Along with pre-school, after-school and teen center programs, the community center has a breakfast program and food pantry that served a record 69,211 meals in 2007. In 2006, the center was named a Champion in Action by Citizens Bank and NBC-10 for their valuable contributions to those in need throughout the Newport area.

Susan L. Santos has served as the Assistant Executive Director for the Girl Scouts of Rhode Island for the past ten years. In this role, she is responsible for overseeing all programs of the Girl Scouts. In addition to her role with the Food Bank, Susan serves on the Board of the John Hope Settlement House, the Cape Verdean Progressive Center and United Methodist Elder Care.

Dale Venturini serves as the President and CEO of the Rhode Island Hospitality & Tourism Association. Over the years, Dale has been instrumental in improving the industry's educational and training programs in the state and enhancing the successes of the business she represents. As someone who is dedicated to the community, Dale is on the Board of Directors of the Providence/Warwick Convention & Visitors Bureau and serves as the Commissioner of the RI Convention Center Authority.

William Walter is the President and CEO of Capital City Community Centers in Providence, a member agency of the Food Bank, serving at-risk children through early childhood learning and after-school programs. Capital City Community Center also operates the Lillian Feinstein Senior Center and a food pantry that distributes 115,000 pounds of food each year.

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Currently, the Rhode Island Community Food Bank is feeding tens of thousands of Rhode Islanders in need each month through a network of over 300 certified member agency programs. A recent USDA statistical study on food insecurity shows that over 17% of Rhode Island's children, 1 out of every 6, are at risk of not knowing where their next meal will come from. Additionally, 11.3% of Rhode Island households, representing 48,000 families, do not know where their next meal will come from.

The Rhode Island Community Food Bank is a non-profit organization located in Providence, RI. The Food Bank solicits, stores and distributes food products donated by supermarkets, wholesalers, food processors, local farmers and community food drives. The food is then distributed to the Food Bank's network of over 300 member agency programs. In the past fiscal year, the Food Bank distributed 8.4 million pounds of food. For more information about the Food Bank, please visit www.rifoodbank.org

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