



PRESS RELEASE
May 1, 2007

CONTACT: Michael Gerhardt
942-6325 x216

Rhode Island Community Food Bank Announces Appointment of New Executive Director

PROVIDENCE, R.I. Douglas Johnson, Ph.D., President of the Rhode Island Community Food Bank, today announced that Andrew R. Schiff, Ph.D. has been appointed to the position of Executive Director.

According to Dr. Johnson, "With the assistance of a highly skilled search firm working in concert with a Search Committee of our Board, the Rhode Island Community Food Bank conducted a thorough and comprehensive national search which has yielded the absolute best person to lead our organization to its next level of development. The cause of moving towards the elimination of hunger in Rhode Island will be well served by Andrew's appointment as our leader. He brings an impressive resume of experience in the management of non-profit organizations including strategic planning, program development and financial management. "

"Our search brought us in contact with approximately 300 prospective candidates for the Executive Director's position. These individuals were evaluated on the basis of numerous criteria including business management, leadership, advocacy, fund development, etc. Andrew's demonstrated experience in all of these critical areas along with compassion and commitment to the eradication of hunger made him our choice. "

For the past six years, Andrew has served as the Assistant Director of Project Bread, which is located in Boston and often described as "the United Way of Food for Massachusetts." In addition, he has coordinated The Walk for Hunger, which raises \$3 million annually and has been the principal author of Project Bread's annual Status Report on Hunger which documents the prevalence of hunger in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Prior to joining Project Bread, Dr. Schiff had a career directing mental health services in several Massachusetts agencies. He is a graduate of Haverford College and holds both an MA and a Ph.D. from Emory University. He replaces Bernie Beaudreau, who served as Executive Director of the Food Bank for eleven years before taking a position with the Global FoodBanking Network of Chicago. Andrew is scheduled to assume his duties as of May 29th.

Currently, the Rhode Island Community Food Bank is feeding thousands of Rhode Islanders in need each month through a network of nearly 400 certified member agency programs. A new USDA statistical study on food insecurity shows that 1 out of every 8 Rhode Island households does not have enough to eat - this is an increase from 1 out of 10 in 1998. In addition to this, Rhode Island's rate of childhood poverty is the highest and fastest growing in New England.

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 approximately 400 member agency programs. In the past fiscal year, the Food Bank distributed a record 8.5 million pounds of food. For more information about the Food Bank, please visit www.rifoodbank.org

#