



# OFF THE SHELF

SUMMER 2018 NEWSLETTER

## Funding the Future

Springfield, Illinois is known for many things; the capital, horseshoe sandwiches and Abraham Lincoln. Visitors from throughout the world are drawn to Springfield for these reasons and more. Among them is Dr. Khalaf Al Habtoor, the founding chairman of Al Habtoor Group, LLC.

Dr. Al Habtoor led a delegation of Al Habtoor Group, LLC leadership to Springfield on Feb. 9, 2018, to establish the *Dr. Khalaf Al Habtoor and Congressman Paul Findley's Children Fund*. This \$500,000 endowment, over a five-year period, will fund programs to provide nutritious food to children throughout the Central Illinois Foodbank's 21-county service region.

"All people have the right to live a decent life," Dr. Khalaf Al Habtoor said. "I believe that philanthropy should be independent of race, religion and geography. With this thought in mind, I am very grateful and find much serenity through giving and sharing with the people and children of central Illinois."

Craig Findley, the son of retired U.S. Congressman Paul Findley, said it is hard to comprehend the depth of hunger's presence in the heart of central Illinois. "From



*Craig Findley watches as Pam Molitoris and Dr. Khalaf Al Habtoor sign a memorandum of understanding for the establishment of the Dr. Khalaf Al Habtoor and Congressman Paul Findley's Children Fund.*

Quincy in the west to Effingham in the southeast, there are 35,000 children who are food insecure," he said. "These are kids who literally don't know where their next meal will come from. Our family is honored to join in the work underway to resolve childhood hunger in central Illinois."

During his visit, Dr. Al Habtoor was able to experience the food insecurity facing our community firsthand by volunteering at St. John's Breadline, a local soup kitchen.

"I wasn't expecting to see the number of people in need of food," said Dr. Al Habtoor. "Especially in Illinois, the land of President Abraham Lincoln and great friend of mine Congressman Paul Findley."

Dr. Al Habtoor is an admirer of Lincoln, who once said, "I hold that while man exists, it is his duty to improve not only his condition, but to assist in ameliorating mankind." It seems that Dr. Al Habtoor and retired U.S. Congressman Paul Findley aspire, like Lincoln, to provide for all of humankind and pave a path for future generations to develop around the world, including right here in central and southern Illinois.



*Dr. Khalaf Al Habtoor meets President Abraham Lincoln, portrayed by Randy Duncan, at the reception following the gift.*



## STAFF

### **Pam Molitoris**

*Executive Director*

[pmolitoris@centralilfoodbank.org](mailto:pmolitoris@centralilfoodbank.org)

### **Jane Kiel**

*Finance Director*

[jkiel@centralilfoodbank.org](mailto:jkiel@centralilfoodbank.org)

### **Kristy Gilmore**

*Food & Agency Resources Director*

[kgilmore@centralilfoodbank.org](mailto:kgilmore@centralilfoodbank.org)

### **Ashley Earnest**

*Public Relations Manager*

[aearnest@centralilfoodbank.org](mailto:aearnest@centralilfoodbank.org)

### **Elaina Feuerbach**

*Community Resource Coordinator*

[efeuerbach@centralilfoodbank.org](mailto:efeuerbach@centralilfoodbank.org)

### **Heather Austwick**

*Executive Assistant*

[haustwick@centralilfoodbank.org](mailto:haustwick@centralilfoodbank.org)

### **Virginia Ferguson**

*Program Coordinator*

[vferguson@centralilfoodbank.org](mailto:vferguson@centralilfoodbank.org)

### **Gayla Stone**

*Operations Assistant*

[foodlist@centralilfoodbank.org](mailto:foodlist@centralilfoodbank.org)

### **Kevin Mackiney**

*Operations Director*

[kmackiney@centralilfoodbank.org](mailto:kmackiney@centralilfoodbank.org)

### **Darren Farley**

*Sort Room Supervisor*

[dfarley@centralilfoodbank.org](mailto:dfarley@centralilfoodbank.org)

# DIRECTOR'S DISH

by Pam Molitoris  
Executive Director



Looking back at my college years, I reminisce about the decisions I made that led me to where I am today. I remember the freshman jitters as I arrived on campus at Illinois Wesleyan University and the nervous excitement I felt when they handed me my diploma four years later. Later, I chose to continue my education, ultimately deciding to pursue a Master of Social Work from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Without the education I received, I wouldn't be the executive director of the Foodbank, going on 15 years.

Now, my "baby" is about to graduate high school, which means the past year has been filled with college visits, applications and important decisions about his future. This past month, he decided to attend Illinois Wesleyan University, just like his momma. Maybe I am a little biased, but I believe my "not so baby boy" has a bright future.

My hope is for all the children in our 21-county service area to have the same bright future as I believe my son has. It is difficult to concentrate, difficult to learn and difficult to develop on an empty stomach. At the Foodbank, children have been and will continue to be a top priority as we look toward the future. By partnering with multiple agencies, children's programs and schools, we are able to help feed over 35,000 children facing hunger in central and southern Illinois.

Hunger is not a short-term problem, which is why planning for the future is crucial. We are grateful to Dr. Al Habtoor for his recent gift to establish the *Dr. Khalaf Al Habtoor and Congressman Paul Findley's Children Fund* and to the Findley family for their continued effort to fight childhood hunger in central and southern Illinois. The revenues earned from this fund, in time, will feed nearly 4,000 children annually, giving them a greater chance of a bright future. They will be able to focus on graduating high school and thinking about their post-secondary plans, rather than worrying about their next meal.

Who knows? Maybe they will even become a Titan.

*Pam Molitoris*

# Paving the Way

**70%**  
partner agencies that  
receive deliveries

**12,000+**  
square miles  
of service area

**4**  
trucks



Central Illinois Foodbank is hitting the streets to deliver food, including fresh fruits and vegetables, with two new trucks. These trucks replaced two aging vehicles with over 350,000 miles each. With the generous support of Springfield Pepsi-Cola Bottling Co. and Refreshment Services Pepsi, the trucks are sporting new, eye-catching wraps, which represent the Foodbank's commitment to distributing healthy foods throughout our service area.

**Thank you, Springfield Pepsi-Cola Bottling Co. and Refreshment Services Pepsi,  
for making an impact in our community!**

## RECENT NEWS

**New Partner Agencies**  
*Welcome to the Foodbank!*

**Kierra's Kids  
Backpack Program  
Sangamon County**

**First Baptist Church of Waverly  
Pantry & Youth Meals  
Morgan County**



**October 2018**

Details will be available on the website  
in the near future.

Call Heather Austwick at 217-522-4022 with  
sponsorship and reservation inquiries.



# Spotlight on Hunger

When you're taking care of 5 children, convenience and efficiency are always important. Jena Austin has a 14-year-old daughter and fosters her niece and three nephews - ages 4, 3, 2 and 1. She also cares for a disabled adult who lives in her home. While Jena spends most of her time as a caregiver, she has her own health issues which prevent her from being able to work.

Jena was looking for a place to get medical care for her children when she discovered Central Counties Health Centers after moving here from Missouri. In addition to providing health services, Central Counties Health Centers and SIU Center for Family Medicine also serve as healthy foods distribution sites where anyone is welcome to pick up fresh produce weekly.

"We're a veggie family. Lots of kids don't like vegetables but mine love them," Jena said. "It's important. They need the nutrients."

Preparing for a trip out of the house during the week, for Jena, means finding 8 shoes, 4 jackets and buckling 4 car seats.

"It's hard getting around Springfield and I don't have a babysitter. I do everything myself," said Jena. "So being able to come to one place and do multiple things is easy. It's convenient."

Being able to pick up fresh produce and milk on the same day as a doctor's appointment makes life much easier. She typically waits until her



***Jena Austin visits Central Counties Health Centers to pick up fresh produce for her family.***

daughter comes home from school before she can run errands. Otherwise, she is only able to leave the house when necessary.

"When you have all these kids that you're caring for and you're bringing everyone in at basically one time, it's convenient that the pharmacy is there," Jena said. "You can pick up a few things and grab produce."

What do the kids love best? "Getting apples and nanas (bananas)," Jena said, with a smile.