



**PRESS RELEASE**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **Community Foundation Awards \$40,000 to Address Food Insecurity**

April 2, 2019—The Community Foundation of Central Illinois (CFCI) is pleased to announce the inaugural Ending Hunger Together grant recipient has been chosen. The proposal submitted by HEAL Food System Partners will be awarded \$40,000 to help address food insecurity issues in the community. This collaboration includes Tazewell County Health Department (lead agency), the Gitm Foundation, Hopedale Hospital, Hult Health Education, Intangible Mindz Agriculture, OFS St. Ann’s Garden, Partnership for a Healthy Community, PCCEO Food Bank, Peoria City County Health Department, Peoria County Programs for Sustainability and Resource Conservation, Regional Fresh Food Council, Tazewell County Resource Center, University of Illinois College of Medicine-Peoria, U of I Extension SNAP Ed Tazewell & Peoria County, U of I Extension Woodford County, Woodford County Health Department, and the YMCA of Peoria.

“The HEAL Food System Partners will align the strengths of numerous existing food system programs whose primary mission is to improve the emergency food system while addressing root causes of hunger by increasing healthy food access, advancing community nutrition education and creating agricultural and community development opportunities. These critical partners will create the foundation of a sound, equitable and healthy food system through deep learning, scaling, mobilization and integrated collaboration,” says Kim Keenan of the Gitm Foundation.

“Studies show that nearly 45,000 adults and children in the tri-county area lack access to enough food for an active, healthy life,” says Mark Roberts, CFCI Chief Executive Officer. “The Ending Hunger Together grants program will take a bold approach to this growing problem by addressing the root causes of food insecurity. Thank you to the generous donors and community partners who helped the Community Foundation create this important initiative.”

#### **About the Community Foundation of Central Illinois**

Established in 1985, the Community Foundation of Central Illinois is a philanthropic resource committed to connecting people who care with causes that matter. For more information please call 309-674-8730 or visit [communityfoundationci.org](http://communityfoundationci.org).

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