



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Dare to Care, Humana Foundation partner to advance food equity through data in Kentuckiana

The three-year partnership will shape new processes, creating equitable food access for all populations, primarily seniors

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (March 13, 2023) – Dare to Care is launching a new initiative aimed to advance food equity in Kentuckiana. Funded by a more than \$1.8 million grant from the Humana Foundation, Dare to Care’s Equity Initiative will gather data and feedback from all populations facing food insecurity - *recognizing that seniors are among the most vulnerable.*

There are five main pillars to Dare to Care’s food equity, starting with the creation of an **internal Equitable Food Access Group** to collect and evaluate baseline data in the food bank’s service area. From there, the objectives are as follows:

- **Implement a “levels of choice” system** among Dare to Care’s 300+ partner network, which is an approach that allows people seeking food assistance to choose for themselves what products they receive rather than receiving pre-packaged meals.
- **Hire three new team members** to help support the increased emphasis around food inequity.
- **Expand the Partner Investment Program**, providing additional funding to partners so they can execute projects that increase their capacity to serve neighbors in an equitable and dignified way.
- **Elevate the voices of those with lived experiences** through third-party research, implementing the Feeding America Client Survey (FACS) – a validated, customizable survey instrument, developed in accordance with national best-practices – as well as one-on-one interviews and focus groups.

“Our mission at Dare to Care is to lead the community in feeding the hungry and conquering the cycle of need, however there is a growing gap between those who have access and the ability to prepare healthy meals and those who do not,” said Vincent James, Dare to Care President and CEO. “To fulfill our mission, Dare to Care must evolve into a fully data-driven organization that continually develops new and innovative approaches to ending hunger.”

While the COVID-19 pandemic did not create the food crisis in the U.S., it did shine a brighter light on what has been an ever-growing problem – food inequity. Food equity refers to systemic problems that create barriers to accessing nutritious food. These inequities persist through

institutionalized discriminatory policies and longstanding environmental factors and are made worse by limited access to support.

“Access to nutritious food is essential for our neighbors to live healthy lives,” said Tiffany Benjamin, CEO of the Humana Foundation. “Far too many people in our communities face barriers when accessing healthy food and the Humana Foundation remains committed to closing those gaps with the support from partners like Dare to Care who know this community best.”

This three-year partnership will increase Dare to Care’s capacity to serve, strengthen the organization’s partner network, elevate existing programs and redefine the Foundational Food program.

To learn more about Dare to Care’s efforts to advance food equity, visit daretocare.org.

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ABOUT DARE TO CARE

Dare to Care Food Bank is a local nonprofit agency with a mission to lead the community, feed the hungry and conquer the cycle of need. For 53 years Dare to Care has been a leader in Kentuckiana’s efforts to fight hunger through programs targeting the most vulnerable in our community. In the past year, Dare to Care has distributed more than 19 million meals in eight Kentucky counties and five Indiana counties. Dare to Care invites the public to support its mission year-round by donating, volunteering and staying connected to the organization through social media. To learn more about Dare to Care and its work in the community, visit www.daretocare.org.

MEDIA CONTACT:

Alexus Richardson, Director of Communications
502-440-3391