



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### Surplus produce donations help feed Delawareans

**Newark, Del.** (June 28, 2017) – Have surplus produce? The Food Bank of Delaware can accept it!

With summer's crop of tomatoes, cucumbers, watermelons, sweet corn and more in almost full bloom, the Food Bank of Delaware wants to remind the community that the hunger-relief organization and many of its network partners can accept fresh produce donations.

114,000-plus Delawareans depend on the Food Bank of Delaware's network of hunger-relief partners. The need for fresh produce in the community is needed now more than ever, especially as low-income Delawareans struggle with healthcare issues such as diabetes, high blood pressure and more.

According to Feeding America's Hunger in America study, 66.5 percent of Delaware families in need of food assistance cope with food insecurity by purchasing food that is unhealthy because it is inexpensive. Produce donations are critical in ensuring that low-income adults and children receive proper nutrition.

Food insecure adults are at a 50 percent greater risk for developing diabetes and a 20 percent greater risk of developing hypertension than other food secure adults.

Regardless of size, all donations help alleviate hunger.

"Ensuring that food insecure Delawareans have access to fresh, nutritious produce is a priority at the Food Bank of Delaware," said Food Bank of Delaware President and CEO Patricia Beebe. "Research shows that clients want healthier foods from food pantries. We are doing all that we can to help get healthier foods into local food pantries."

Last year, the Food Bank of Delaware received more than 2.2 million pounds of produce from wholesalers, the Port of Wilmington, farmers and backyard gardeners. This year the Food Bank hopes to exceed that amount.

Produce may be dropped off at the hunger-relief organization's warehouses in Newark (14 Garfield Way) or Milford (1040 Mattlind Way) Monday-Friday from 8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. A list of other hunger-relief partners may be found by visiting <http://www.fbd.org/produce/>. For more information about donating fresh produce to the Food Bank, please contact Sarah Woods, Produce Access Coordinator, at [swoods@fbd.org](mailto:swoods@fbd.org) or (302) 292-1305 ext 114.

- Potatoes
- Tomatoes
- Watermelon
- Eggplant
- Peppers

- Corn
- Green Beans
- Cantaloupe
- Greens
- Cucumbers
- Squash
- Carrots

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*The Food Bank of Delaware distributes millions of pounds of products each year to its network of 575 hunger-relief program partners throughout the state and also provides thousands of meals a month for children through the After-School Nutrition Program, the Summer Food Service Program and the Backpack Program. The Food Bank's hunger-relief programs provide for Delawareans at risk of going without meals each year. The Culinary School at the Food Bank of Delaware, the Food Bank's workforce development arm, provides training for adults interested in careers in the food service industry. For more information about the Food Bank of Delaware, visit [www.fbd.org](http://www.fbd.org) or call (302) 292-1305.*