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RE: Food Bank of the Southern Tier Named Food Bank of the Year

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

ELMIRA, N.Y. – The [Food Bank of the Southern Tier](http://www.foodbankst.org) has been named the 2017 Food Bank of the Year by [Feeding America](http://www.feedingamerica.org), the nation’s largest domestic hunger-relief organization. The Food Bank was selected for being the most outstanding food bank out of more than 200 Feeding America member food banks across the country.

The Food Bank of the Southern Tier joins the ranks of past winners including the Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank in Ohio, the Alameda County Food Bank in California, and the Houston Food Bank, the largest food bank in the U.S.

“Winning this award was only possible because the Food Bank is supported by our incredible community,” said Natasha Thompson, President & CEO of the Food Bank of the Southern Tier. “I’m humbled every day by the volunteers, agencies, donors and community partners who help us fulfill our mission. Being honored at the national level only reinforces our belief that the Southern Tier is very special.”

The Food Bank was recognized for the effectiveness of its [Mobile Food Pantry](#) program and for involving donors in its strategic planning process. It was also recognized for its research on increasing capacity at its 165 member agencies, which include food pantries and meal sites throughout the Southern Tier.

“President and CEO Natasha Thompson has assembled a terrific staff that we consider best-in-class,” said Diana Aviv, CEO of Feeding America. “Their programs as well as their efforts to increase the amount of food and groceries they provide to their community are exemplary.”

Last year, the Food Bank distributed 9.8 million meals to people in need through member agencies, Mobile Food Pantries, and the [BackPack Program](#). In addition to nonperishable food and grocery items, the Food Bank distributed 2.2 million pounds of fresh produce.

The Food Bank of the Southern Tier was founded in 1981 and serves Broome, Chemung, Schuyler, Steuben, Tioga, and Tompkins Counties. Formerly located at a small warehouse on Grand Central Avenue in Elmira, the Food Bank moved to its current 65,000-square-foot warehouse in 2011. The move increased capacity significantly and has allowed the organization to distribute nearly 10 million meals to those who need it most.

To learn more about the Food Bank of the Southern Tier, visit www.foodbankst.org.

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ABOUT THE FOOD BANK OF THE SOUTHERN TIER

The [Food Bank of the Southern Tier](#) distributes food to people struggling with hunger through a network of 165 food pantries, meal programs, shelters and other hunger relief agencies in Broome, Chemung, Schuyler, Steuben, Tioga and Tompkins Counties. The Food Bank also directly serves people in need through the [BackPack Program](#) and [Mobile Food Pantry Program](#). Through advocacy, education and community partnerships, the Food Bank's vision is to create a future without hunger for everyone in the Southern Tier. Named the [2017 Food Bank of the Year](#), the Food Bank of the Southern Tier is a member of [Feeding America](#) and a regional agency of [Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Rochester](#).

