

INSIDE SCOOP

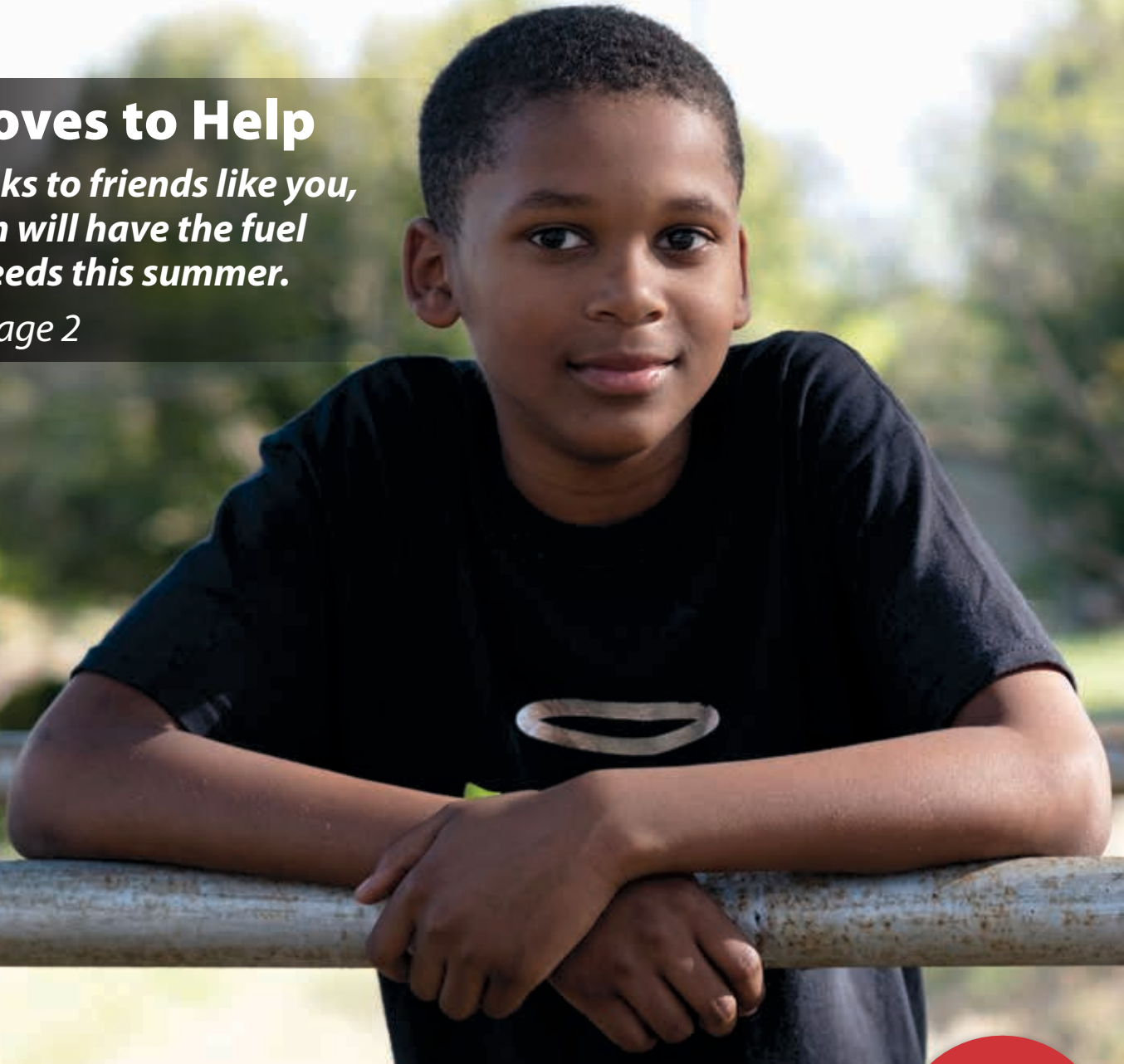
Alleviating hunger. Nourishing stronger communities.

Summer 2023

He Loves to Help

*Thanks to friends like you,
Elijah will have the fuel
he needs this summer.*

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these stories!***

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**\$1
CAN FEED
A NEIGHBOR
FOR A DAY!**



THE DALY BRIEFING

Dear Friend,

Summer is almost here, and for a lot of children, that means swimming pools, cookouts, and vacations. Summers are the best time of year for many kids.

Sadly, for other kids, summer is a time of added hunger. For families already having a hard time putting food on the table for their children, summer is that much harder. Children no longer have access to free food at school. Parents have to figure out how to afford extra food for their kids, in addition to childcare costs. That's why this issue of Inside Scoop features children. We're addressing summer hunger — and how supporters like you are rising to the challenge.

Of course, summer hunger affects more than just children. For many of our neighbors, food insecurity is a year-round issue. And with grocery prices so high, the problem is bigger than it's been in a long time.

Thanks to your kindness, we're up to the challenge ... because you always rise to the occasion. And for that, I'm grateful.

Kelly W. Daly

Kelly Daly
President & CEO



Elijah is a thoughtful kid who was born to serve others.

He Loves to Help

And thanks to your help, he won't go hungry this summer

Eleven-year-old Elijah already knows what he wants to be when he grows up: a robotics engineer. "I want to build robots that help around the house," he says. "So, if you need help, or your car breaks down, it'll get fixed. Helping people makes me feel proud of myself."

Elijah, with his soft smile and bright eyes, knows a lot about helping people. He lives with his grandfather, Robert, and five other siblings. As the oldest of the bunch, Elijah often helps his grandpa with the other kids and with chores.

"If there's a mess, I clean it up," he says.

At school, Elijah is in robotics club, where the team recently did well at a competition, finishing in second place. "It made me really excited," he says. "I felt like I accomplished something."

During the school year, Elijah gets two free meals a day. But during summer vacation, those meals need to be replaced ... and with six growing kids and a limited family income, that's not always easy. So Elijah and his family are thankful for summer feeding programs that your support makes possible.

"When I'm hungry, I get tired or I'll get distracted," Elijah says. "But when I'm not, I'm on-task and I can focus ... and be ready for whatever happens."

Maybe someday he'll build a robot to help children facing hunger!

Your gifts help provide food for kids like Elijah during their summer break. Thank you!

Elijah's story is representative of the people we serve.

“I’d Give Them My Last Breath”

How you’re helping families feed their children

Dayrl lives for his two sons. “Don’t leave them. Show them love. Do things with them,” he says. “You’ve got to find time. Life is too short, and those kids grow fast.”

The single dad of 10-year-old Tyler and 12-year-old Dayrl Jr. dedicates every day to making sure his boys have the best life possible.

“I’d give them my last breath,” Dayrl says. “There isn’t anything in the world that I wouldn’t do for them. I love my kids times infinity.”

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He’s been taking care of his boys on his own since their mother left right after Tyler was born. Since then, Dayrl, a mechanic, has taken on extra jobs to help pay the bills.

When times are particularly tough — like in the summer, when the boys aren’t getting meals at school — Dayrl sometimes skips his own meals to make sure his kids eat.

During those lean times, Dayrl is grateful for a nearby food pantry.

“It does get hard sometimes,” Dayrl said. “Especially if I don’t have a good week at work and

we’re low on food, we’ll get a meal at the pantry.”

Dayrl says the folks at the pantry never make him feel embarrassed about seeking help.

“They treat me like family,” he says. “I know I have help if I need it.”

And if it helps his boys, he’s all for it. Anything for his sons.

“I always tell them, ‘Show love, don’t hate,’” he says. “We’re the only family we’ve got, so cherish it.”

Your gifts help single dads like Dayrl to feed their families, and they’re grateful for your support!



Dayrl’s story is representative of the people we serve.

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Serving Those Who Serve

Your support helps families like Jaliscea's

Jaliscea lives to serve. "I just love helping people," she says. That's why she joined the Army, following in the footsteps of many of her relatives. Now a sergeant, Jaliscea volunteers her free time distributing food to neighbors at a local distribution center.

But she is more than a faithful volunteer. Jaliscea and her husband are among the 160,000 active-duty military members who faced food insecurity last year. They have a blended family with seven kids, ranging in age from 1 to 13. And their limited income doesn't stretch far enough some months.

"I don't make a lot," she says. "After I pay my bills, I'm pretty much done."


Fortunately, the food distributions make a big difference. Jaliscea is grateful for friends like you who help put food on their table, especially the nutritious fresh fruits and vegetables they can now access on a regular basis.

"Coming here helps us a lot," she says. "Thank you."

Because of you, families get the help they deserve. Thank you!

Jaliscea's story is representative of the people we serve.



 **Jaliscea and her family are grateful for friends like you!**

**Stay connected to the work you support!
Please visit eifoodbank.org to learn more.**



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▼ PLEASE CUT OFF THE REPLY FORM BELOW, AND RETURN IT WITH YOUR GIFT. ▼

MY GIFT TO FIGHT SUMMER HUNGER

Yes, Kelly! I want to help children, families, and neighbors facing summer hunger.

Enclosed is my gift of:

\$ _____ to help feed as many families as possible

Please send me information about the Plate Fillers monthly giving program.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

Please make your check payable to:

Eastern Illinois Foodbank

2405 North Shore Drive | Urbana, IL 61802

Your donation is tax deductible to the full extent of the law. We will send you a receipt for your records.



Please charge my gift on my credit card:

VISA MC AMEX DISC

CARD NUMBER _____ SECURITY # _____

SIGNATURE _____ EXPIRATION DATE _____

To charge your gift by phone, please call (217) 328-3663.

It's easy! Give online at eifoodbank.org.

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@ _____