

Press Release

For Immediate Release

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Feeding the Gulf Coast Announces New President & CEO

(July 29, 2020) – Feeding the Gulf Coast welcomes Michael Ledger as its new President and CEO. Michael Ledger has overseen the Florida Branch as the Florida Branch Manager since June 2019. Under Michael’s leadership, the Florida Facility has distributed nearly 15 million pounds of food throughout the Florida Panhandle, equating to nearly half of the food bank’s distribution service area. Michael has consistently implemented strategies to serve those in need in the communities while overcoming challenges presented by limited facility space and ongoing Hurricane Michael response efforts. While serving as the Florida Branch Manager, Michael was responsible for setting the stage for expanding the Milton warehouse.

“I am excited to welcome Michael Ledger as the new President & CEO of Feeding the Gulf Coast,” says Dave Reaney, retired President and CEO of Feeding the Gulf Coast currently serving as Interim CEO. “I have been impressed with Michael’s leadership over the past year and the broad range of experience in both business and organizational management he demonstrates. He’s a Navy Veteran and has been a private business owner as well as having experience in management positions in large warehousing and distribution organizations. I am confident in his leadership and capacity to continue the growth and good work of Feeding the Gulf Coast alongside our dedicated staff, volunteers, and supporters.”

Michael Ledger served four years in the United States Navy as an electronics technician and then earned his Bachelor's degree in Management from the University of Illinois. He has previously worked as Director of Sales and Marketing and Director of Operations for Design Ideas, Ltd. in Springfield, Illinois, and Owner and Chief Operations Officer at Vine in Navarre, Florida. Michael has over 30 years of experience with business development and operational strategy and will bring food bank experience and diverse management leadership to this new position.

“I have had the privilege to work alongside a very dedicated team at our Florida Branch. They have faced numerous challenges, and they continually rise to meet each of them from Hurricane Michael to the COVID-19 crisis. I have also had an opportunity to work with many others on the Feeding the Gulf Coast team and this experience has made me very excited for what we can accomplish together as we strive to serve our mission of helping those in need.” The board and staff of the organization look forward to Michael's leadership in this new role as they continue to work through the challenges of COVID-19 while producing record levels of food support for people in need.

Feeding the Gulf Coast serves 24-counties throughout the central Gulf Coast region including parts of south Mississippi, south Alabama, and the panhandle of Florida where 1 in 5 individuals struggle with hunger. Since the beginning of the pandemic, the food bank has distributed more than 11 million meals, a 48% increase over the same period last year.

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For interviews or images, please contact Amanda Young, Marketing & Communications Manager
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About Feeding the Gulf Coast

Feeding the Gulf Coast, formerly Bay Area Food Bank, serves a 24-county area spanning the Florida panhandle, south Alabama, and south Mississippi. In 2019, the food bank distributed over 24 million meals to over 400 church pantries, soup kitchens, and other nonprofit organizations throughout its service area. The food bank also operates multiple hunger-relief and nutrition programs, including Summer Meals, Afterschool Meal, Backpack, Disaster Relief, Mobile Pantry and Produce Drop Distributions and Nutrition Education. Feeding the Gulf Coast is a United Way member agency and a member of Feeding America. For more information, visit www.feedingthegulfcoast.org.

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