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**To all members of the Vermont Legal Community:**

Now, more than ever, Vermonters are challenged to keep food on the table. Studies by the Vermont Foodbank and Feeding America show that, before the COVID-19 pandemic, one in four Vermonters turned to food shelves and meal service programs to feed themselves and their families. A [statewide survey](#) estimates that food insecurity during the pandemic has risen 33% in Vermont. Long lines of cars at recent food distribution events across the state show us that a significant portion of our neighbors are struggling with hunger.

No one should go hungry. Paired with the [vital work of the Vermont Foodbank](#), Vermont's legal community can help.

For the past three years, the Vermont Foodbank, the Vermont Bar Association, my Office, and many other law offices throughout the state have hosted the *Lawyers Fighting Hunger Food Drive* during Hunger Action Month each September. The COVID-19 pandemic has caused a steep increase in food insecurity such that the imperative of Hunger Action Month is upon us. This month, we ask that you consider joining us in a collective drive to put food on Vermonters' tables in this time of crisis. Whether a lawyer, paralegal, judge, investigator, law student, professor, or staff member of a legal team, together the Vermont Legal Community can make a meaningful impact. **We will kick off the [Vermont Legal Community Fighting Hunger Food Drive](#) next Friday, June 12<sup>th</sup>, for a two-week fundraiser ending on Friday, June 26<sup>th</sup>.**

This year's drive will be structured differently than in years past. We recognize that some law offices, like the Attorney General's Office, have been fortunate enough to continue full operations remotely. Others have not. Whether members of the Vermont Legal Community find themselves on the receiving end of this year's efforts or are in a position to give back, it is important to come together as a community to address this growing fundamental need. There are a number of ways you can consider participating, all centralized around one online fundraising page for the [Vermont Legal Community Fighting Hunger Food Drive](#):

- 1) **Consider donating through the [fundraising page](#).** All funds will be collected as a team through this page hosted by the Vermont Foodbank. Participants won't need to set up or manage their own fundraising pages, but are encouraged to note efforts through the Activity Feed of the one unified page.
- 2) **Consider dropping an item or more in your local grocery store's donation box.** To note your support as part of the Vermont Legal Community Fighting Hunger Food Drive, just count the number of items and add a comment in the Activity Feed of the fundraising page. Add a photo, if you like!
- 3) **Consider donating some spring vegetables from your garden or planting some vegetables and fruit for harvesting to donate later to your local food shelf.** In the Activity Feed of the fundraising page, add a comment noting how many items you donated or seeds you planted for later donation. Photos are encouraged!

Every dollar amount and every effort to further this cause will help.

All members of the Vermont Legal Community are welcome to join this effort. John Sayles, CEO of the Vermont Foodbank, will host a kick-off meeting on [Zoom](#) for all participants at 10:00 AM on Friday, June 12<sup>th</sup> (access information below). We also encourage participants to talk up our collective good work on social media by using the hashtag **#VTLegalFoodDrive**. A press release reporting the overall totals raised together and thanking participants will follow at the completion of the drive.

As a member of the Vermont Legal Community, I hope that you will join my Office, the Vermont Foodbank, and the Vermont Bar Association to make the ***Vermont Legal Community Fighting Hunger Food Drive*** a success. Together, we can help to make sure all Vermonters are fed, especially during this time of growing need.

Sincerely,



T.J. Donovan  
Vermont Attorney General

**Join Zoom Meeting**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83795179528>  
Meeting ID: 837 9517 9528

**Dial by your location**

+1 929 205 6099