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Media Release

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Foodbank Names New Chief Programs and Innovation Officer

NORFOLK, VA | June 27, 2023 – The Foodbank of Southeastern Virginia and the Eastern Shore has named Leah Williams-Rumbley its new Chief Programs and Innovation Officer. Formerly the Foodbank's Senior Director of Advocacy, Leah brings twenty-five years of senior leadership experience in the nonprofit community services sector. This promotion recognizes Leah's exceptional contributions to the organization and her ability to drive positive change in the community.

Leah has played a vital role in cultivating and stewarding relationships with elected and appointed officials, key community partners and stakeholders, and the business community. Her expertise in leveraging her functional knowledge to diagnose challenges and identify the root causes of complex issues was instrumental in the success of the Foodbank's advocacy efforts. She consistently provided her colleagues with sound guidance and influenced others to embrace leading practices that furthered the mission of the Foodbank.

"I welcome Leah's passion for creating and building sustainable solutions to decrease food insecurity through innovative practices to our Executive team," said Foodbank President and CEO Christopher Tan. "Her focus on centering our neighbor's hunger for workforce opportunities, financial stability, and educational opportunities will move our work to the next level."

As the Chief Programs and Innovation Officer, Leah will be responsible for all Foodbank programs, advocacy efforts, strategic planning, neighbor-focused data, root cause work and partnerships, grants administration, and neighbor-centered practices.

Mrs. Williams-Rumbley holds an undergraduate degree in General Studies with a focus on Business Administration from the University of Maryland and is currently pursuing her M.B.A. at Regent University. She is the chair of the Norfolk Division board of the Hampton Roads Chamber of Commerce and an alumni of LEAD Hampton Roads. She also co-chairs the Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion advisory committee for Feeding America's National Advisory Council and serves in various other community leadership capacities.

About the Foodbank

For more than 40 years, the Foodbank of Southeastern Virginia and the Eastern Shore has provided more than 380 million meals to those in our community who face hunger. Through our programs, facilities, and large network of community partners, we work to eliminate hunger daily. Our understanding of the need for a long-term solution has led to the creation of a refreshed strategic plan aimed at moving Hampton Roads closer to achieving the mission of eliminating hunger for those we serve—not only for the day, or for the week, but for a lifetime. For up-to-date information, visit foodbankonline.org or follow us on social media.