

# Giving is Just Part of the Family Business.

## Farm Donated to Fight Hunger is Outgrowing its Capacity.

Back in the early 1800s, Don Ewen's ancestors arrived from England to settle and farm the land now known as Gary, Indiana. Don carried on the tradition, and in 1948 opened his own fresh produce market to sell the sweet corn, onions, beets and potatoes he grew on what is now the corner of 35th Avenue and Grant Street in Gary.

From the very beginning, Don devoted his time to feeding people good, nutritious food. He utilized almost any resource he could to construct the large red barns and freezers used to store his crops. The land he farmed on was prone to flooding, and Don did his best to protect his land from the constant threat of the Little Calumet River. But despite countless ditches and creative irrigation systems, flooding remained an issue and Don was forced to move his farm when the land was rezoned in the early 1990s.



With service at the heart of everything he did, the 70-year-old graciously donated his farmland and barns to the Food Bank of Northwest Indiana, which had been struggling to find a home for its mission of fighting hunger in the Region.

Don's daughter Sally and son-in-law Clarence Davis remember their father's dedication. "He moved his farm so he could keep working," the couple noted. "But he still very much wanted to give back to the community. He really did care about the people and wanted to help in any way he could."

Food and financial donations helped transform the barns into a sustainable distribution center for the Food Bank, with a prediction that the facility could acquire and store enough food to serve two million meals annually.

In the nearly 25 years since, generous friends and donors have enabled the Food Bank to far surpass that original prediction. In 2015, the Food Bank served more than 4.3 million meals, reaching over 15,000 individuals and families in need each week through its partner agencies and programs. But even that capacity meets only a fraction of the true need.

Dear Friend,

When Clarence and Sally Davis spoke about their father, Don Ewen, it was an inspiring reminder of how many unsung heroes and friends we have to thank for the gift of the Food Bank of Northwest Indiana.

**You are another friend we have to thank.**

It's generosity and loyalty like yours that makes my stepping in as interim executive director an easy transition. Because of you, the Food Bank is poised to take dramatic steps forward in responding to the persistent hunger that exists across Lake and Porter counties. In 2015, we distributed over four million meals' worth of food from our warehouse—more than twice the supposed "maximum capacity" of two million meals.

Together, we'll carry on the Food Bank's great tradition of feeding hungry Hoosiers ... utilizing every square inch of space and every dollar donated to fulfill our mission and lead the Region in the fight against hunger.

I look forward to getting to know each and every friend of the Food Bank. Thank you again for your generosity in helping us reach more food insecure neighbors and build a stronger, healthier community for all.

**Harry Vande Velde**, *Interim Executive Director*

*Don Ewen passed away in 2007 at the age of 85. Clarence and Sally Davis have carried on their father's commitment to serving others. Sally recently retired from a 40-year teaching career. Clarence volunteers three times a week at a neighborhood food pantry.*