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## **PRESS RELEASE**

### ***Ohio National Guard mission with West Ohio Food Bank to end July 2, 2021***

LIMA, OH (June 7, 2021) – Ohio National Guard Major Gen. John Harris recently announced that he has directed July 2, 2021, as the end of all missions at all food banks across the state of Ohio.

National Guard troops have been working side by side with West Ohio Food Bank staff, partner agencies, and volunteers since March 25, 2020, all through the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Statement from West Ohio Food Bank CEO Tommie Harner:** “We have been so grateful to have the National Guard with us over the past year helping to assist our staff in getting food to those in need during the COVID-19 pandemic. As their time with us comes to an end, we want to share our deepest gratitude for everything they have done. They have become like family to us.”

With this mission by the National Guard coming to a close, the West Ohio Food Bank will now once again rely heavily on volunteers, whether it be youth groups, community organizations, those recently retired from the work force, or senior citizens looking to give back to their communities. Please contact the West Ohio Food Bank about a number of volunteer opportunities available!

#### **About West Ohio Food Bank:**

West Ohio Food Bank is the largest food distribution system in West Ohio coordinating, collecting, warehousing and distributing food. The process of getting food to individuals in need requires a dynamic infrastructure and sophisticated management. West Ohio Food Bank secures donations from national food and grocery manufacturers, retailers, shippers, packers and growers and from government agencies, individuals and other organizations. They in turn distribute food and grocery items, ensuring the safe storage and reliable distribution of goods to local food pantries and meal programs that served over 5 million meals to children, families, seniors and other groups at risk of hunger. For more information visit us at [www.westohiofoodbank.org](http://www.westohiofoodbank.org), find us on Facebook.com/West Ohio Food Bank or follow us on twitter.com/WestOhioFB.

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**FOR MORE INFORMATION:** Contact Tommie Harner or Jason Aldrich at 419-222-7946