



**FEEDING CHILDREN
EVERYWHERE**

Together for a Hunger-Free World

Feeding Children Everywhere Announces New President & CEO, Board Members

March 23, 2020

LONGWOOD, FL -- Feeding Children Everywhere (FCE), a global leader in the fight against hunger, announced today that its Board of Directors has appointed Rick Whitted as President and Chief Executive Officer, effective April 1, 2020.

“The board unanimously agreed that Rick brings proven leadership to FCE at a crucial time in our evolution and growth,” said Bill Taulbee, Board Chairman Emeritus. Amid new measures to provide safe and quick distribution during the current COVID-19 pandemic, Whitted is stepping up organization-wide efforts to redirect impact to priority populations, those communities most affected nationwide. “Along with the leadership team and colleagues around the country we are excited about the commitment and dedication he will bring to furthering our mission and vision.”

Whitted is currently the Southeast Region Manager for Government & Nonprofit Banking at JPMorgan Chase & Co., as well as an author, speaker, and notable thought leader and consultant on workplace culture. With a passion for shaping leading-edge workplace strategies, Whitted brings more than 28 years of successful sales leadership and people management across consumer, nonprofit and government sectors. Having served on the organization’s board of directors since 2017, he is uniquely poised to lead FCE into a decade of operational expansion that includes large-scale partnerships and innovative new programs.

“For the past two and a half years I’ve had an up close and personal view of FCE; the integrity of the mission, character of the people, and the innovation of the culture. I consider myself blessed to serve with this family,” said Whitted.

The appointment is part of an operational plan to align the organization with a key focus on Social Determinants of Health (SDoH). FCE will develop programs that combat economic instability and food insecurity, while improving social and physical environments that promote good health. As part of this strategy the board of directors has also appointed two new members from the healthcare and foodservice industries, Derrick Taveras and Bill Kress.

Derrick Taveras is a healthcare executive with more than 20 years of entrepreneurial experience developing and growing best-in-class risk-adjustment, quality, eligibility and sales solutions for health plans and hospital systems on a national scale. Taveras has successfully grown start-up ventures into full-fledged companies with rising market share. With a focus on transparent delivery, Taveras provides a hands-on approach to developing relationships across the healthcare spectrum.

“My goal is to help position FCE as a thought leader in the SDoH space,” Taveras said. “My experience supporting health plans to overcome some of their biggest challenges, is a skill set I bring to the organization to help cultivate meaningful partnerships with health plans and Channel Partners. FCE has the ability to close a major gap in a health plan’s ability to feed and manage the health of their most challenged members.”

President of SouthCoast Sales Solutions, Bill Kress, will bring 30 + years of food industry knowledge, relationships and experience to FCE. With a career in foodservice sales, Kress will focus on building strategic partnerships with industry leaders.

"My objective is to build upon the baseline FCE has established with additional key relationships with multiple manufacturers along with distribution logistics to bolster our offerings," said Kress.

Bill Taulbee, FCE’s Chairman Emeritus, will resume the role of Chair through the organization’s strategic transition and is leading efforts to identify a successor.

About Feeding Children Everywhere

Feeding Children Everywhere is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to the vision of a hunger-free world in our lifetime. Since 2010, FCE has activated more than 760,000 volunteers to package and distribute over 127 million meals to children and families in need. To learn more about Feeding Children Everywhere visit www.feedingchildreneverywhere.com.

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