

Curriculum Vitae of MATT HABASH

Matt Habash has dedicated his career to ending hunger, with a relentless focus toward connecting hungry neighbors with nutritious food, stabilizing families today while helping them access resources for tomorrow so they can thrive for a lifetime.

Matt became executive director of Mid-Ohio Foodbank in 1984. That year, the Foodbank distributed 6 million pounds of grocery products. By 2016, the Foodbank's work had grown to more than 70 million pounds of food, about half of which was fresh. However -- his real goal is to go out of business. In 2017, the Foodbank shifted its core mission to ending hunger – a fundamental change in strategy toward feeding people today while working every day to end hunger. Matt's vision continues to lead the national hunger movement, always challenging the status quo to meet the evolving needs of those he serves. He has developed and implemented innovative concepts that continuously meet our hungry neighbors where they are, seeking to address the whole person as they work to climb out of poverty.

In 2014, Matt elevated the minimum wage for starting teammates at Mid-Ohio Foodbank to \$15 per hour. In his effort to bring the community into a wage conversation, Matt practices what he promotes. He believes that income is the fundamental factor that consistently keeps our neighbors in poverty and that we must take decisive action to align our poor with the growth boon that central Ohio continues to experience.

Before joining the Foodbank, Matt was with the St. Stephen's Community House, first as a youth worker and then as the assistant to the executive director. Matt also was a member of Columbus City Council from 1993 to 2006, serving as Council President from 1999 to 2006. As Council President, Matt governed with civility and humanity. Co-Chair with Columbus Mayor Michael B. Coleman, Matt led the 21st Century Growth initiative, a plan designed to balance job creation with sustainable neighborhood development. Other efforts spearheaded by Matt in his role as Council President were the 315 Research Corridor, the City's Indoor Clean Air Act and the City's Bike Path Plan. He holds a Masters of Business Administration from Xavier University, a Masters of Public Policy from The Ohio State University, and a Bachelor of Arts in philosophy from Xavier University.

Matt takes an active leadership role in the community, having served on numerous boards including Mount Carmel Health System, Chair; the Ohio Association of Foodbanks, Chair; Health Policy Institute of Ohio; Authentic Leadership in Action in Nova Scotia; and The Ohio State University's Food Innovation Center. Other community involvement includes serving as Co-Chair of the Mount Carmel St. Ann's Capital Campaign, Chair of the Mayor's Search Committee for Police Chief and an Advisory Board Member for OSU Star House – homeless youth drop-in center.

Matt also assumes an influential role in the Food Bank industry, leading Feeding America's national initiative to recover an additional one billion pounds a year of fresh produce that does not make it to market. Previously on the Board of Feeding America and Chair of the Central Region, Matt has received numerous awards, recognizing his commitment and work in serving those most vulnerable. In 2011, Matt was the recipient of Feeding America's most prestigious award, the John van Hengel Fellowship Award. Established in 2002, the award honors John van Hengel, who started the concept of food banking in the late 1960s in Phoenix, Arizona. In addition to the scores of other awards given to Matt, he is also the recipient of the 2012 League of Women Voters of Columbus' Democracy in Action Award and the 2010 Corcoran Award for Social Justice.