



Julia Tedesco, President & CEO

Julia Tedesco is the president and CEO of Foodlink, a nonprofit dedicated to ending hunger and building healthier communities in the Greater Rochester/Finger Lakes region of New York. Over the past decade, she has led the organization's evolution from one of the country's oldest food banks, to an innovative food resource center and public health organization focused on addressing the root causes of food insecurity, including chronic poverty and systemic racism.

Tedesco began at Foodlink in 2008, and has served in numerous roles for the organization. She helped to launch food-related programs that nourish communities and foster economic development, including the Curbside Market – a farmers' market on wheels- and the Foodlink Career Fellowship, a one-of-a-kind workforce development program. She oversaw the growth of a marketing, communications and development team, serving as Foodlink's first Chief Development and Communications Officer. She was named executive director in 2014.

During her tenure at Foodlink, Tedesco also played a key role in the relocation of Foodlink's facility in 2012, the expansion of its Community Kitchen in 2016, and Foodlink's response to the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020-22. Foodlink has won numerous awards locally for its service to the Rochester area, and is widely recognized as one of the more innovative food banks in the Feeding America network, boasting an array of programs and social enterprises that address both the systems and root causes of food insecurity.

Tedesco holds a master's degree from Syracuse University's Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs, and a bachelor's degree from Fairfield University. She currently serves on the Board of Directors for Feeding New York State, Rochester Regional Health, and Rochester Health Reach (Healthcare for the Homeless), and as an Editorial Advisory Board member of Food Bank News. She lives in Rochester, New York with her husband and three children.