



Contact:
Amanda Allen
Marketing and Communications Coordinator
(540) 444-2942 (direct)
(540) 537-8984 (cell)
aallen@faswva.org
Salem, VA

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FASWVA president and CEO Pamela Irvine honored with national fellowship award

SALEM, Va. (May 2, 2018) – Pamela Irvine, President and CEO of Feeding America Southwest Virginia was recently honored with the John van Hengel Fellowship award during Feeding America national’s annual conference.

Feeding America, the nation’s largest domestic hunger-relief organization, presented the 2018 Hunger’s Hope Awards, which included the John van Hengel Fellowship, at their annual conference last week in Tampa, Florida.

The award honors the ideals of the late John van Hengel, who developed the concept of food banking in the 1960s. It recognizes a CEO of a member food bank for his or her excellence in leadership, local impact and national influence, and commitment and entrepreneurial spirit in the area of hunger relief.

Irvine is the president and CEO of Feeding America Southwest Virginia and has served for 37 years.

“Pamela has demonstrated unwavering compassion, dedication and leadership in the anti-hunger movement,” said Matt Knott, President of Feeding America national. “She established and grew Southwest Virginia’s first food bank from a one-room operation to the largest provider of meals for struggling families in a 26-county region. Over the years, she has not only helped feed many people in her community, but also invested in the success of leaders and partnerships throughout the country, moving us closer to truly ending hunger in America.”

“I’m extraordinarily proud to receive this honor, especially since I knew John van Hengel,” said Irvine. “Feeding the hungry is my passion and to be recognized in the name of this foundational hunger-relief leader is truly humbling.”

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About Feeding America Southwest Virginia

Feeding America Southwest Virginia was founded locally in 1981 and proudly commemorates 37 years of fighting hunger and changing lives through community partnerships. For the last three and a half decades, the Food Bank’s ultimate mission has remained the same: eliminate hunger in the region. The primary function of the Food Bank is to secure and distribute large quantities of food for Southwest Virginia’s hungry. Approximately \$26.5 million worth of food and grocery related products are channeled annually through a network of more than 330 partner feeding programs in our 26-county, 9-city region that provide food or meals to those in need. The local Food Bank is an affiliate member of Feeding America. Visit www.faswva.org for more information or like us on [Facebook](#).

About Feeding America

Feeding America® is the largest hunger-relief organization in the United States. Through a network of 200 food banks and 60,000 food pantries and meal programs, we provide meals to more than 46 million people each year. Feeding America also supports programs that prevent food waste and improve food security among the people we serve; educates the public about the problem of hunger; and advocates for legislation that protects people from going hungry. Individuals, charities, businesses and government all have a role in ending hunger. Donate. Volunteer. Advocate. Educate. Together we can solve hunger. Visit www.feedingamerica.org, find us on [Facebook](#) or follow us on [Twitter](#).