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# PRESS RELEASE

## Waste Not Want Not Announces Transformational Gift

**Orange Park, Florida** - Waste Not Want Not, a local charity committed to rescuing food and other items to fight hunger and poverty in 14 counties across Northeast Florida announced they received a transformational gift from a private family foundation. This sizeable award - the largest single monetary gift ever received by the organization - will allow the organization to perform much-needed upgrades to its current food distribution center located at 2050 Carnes Road in Orange Park, enabling the organization to rescue more food and ultimately feed more people in need.

"We were fortunate enough to cut the ribbon on this facility in 2009. Unfortunately, there have been no substantial upgrades to the facility since then and we have significantly outgrown the space" says Kathleen N. Spears, PhD, executive director of Waste Not Want Not, going on to say "we can barely keep pace with the growing need for our program, particularly in light of funding changes hitting the sector."

Waste Not plans to use the funds to install an HVAC system, replace fencing, improve its electrical infrastructure to accommodate new refrigeration, and add a building addition to accommodate growth, as well as a number of other improvements. "The board and staff are so incredibly grateful to the Foundation for this amazing gift. In addition to positioning us to keep pace with growing need, this will also and equally importantly create a more comfortable working environment for our most valued asset - our volunteers." The organization currently relies on over 300 volunteers to rescue and sort roughly 2 million pounds of food each year that is shared with dozens of local charities across Northeast Florida to support their efforts in feeding the hungry.

### ABOUT WASTE NOT WANT NOT

*Waste Not Want Not* is dedicated to alleviating hunger in North Florida by preventing food waste. We are not a food bank; we do not purchase food. Rather we are a food rescue organization; we connect the dots between surplus food and hungry people. We work with hundreds of passionate volunteers, committed food donors, and numerous charitable organizations in 14 counties to rescue and share food with those in need. Every week, more than 15,000 people eat food provided by *Waste Not* - food that, but for the efforts of our volunteers, would be wasted.

For additional information, to volunteer, or to donate, visit: [www.wastenotflorida.org](http://www.wastenotflorida.org).

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