**CONTACT** Kathleen N. Spears PhD Executive Director <u>Kathleen@wastenotflorida.org</u> 904-687-6327



For Immediate Release November 13, 2024

## **PRESS RELEASE**

## Waste Not Want Not appoints Kelly M. Gentry, MSW as Director

**Jacksonville, Florida** - Waste Not Want Not, a local charity committed to rescuing food and other items to fight hunger and poverty every day in 14 counties across Northeast Florida announced the hire of Kelly Gentry as Director, Mission Delivery. Gentry - a resident of Ponte Vedra - comes to the organization with over twenty years of experience in the nonprofit sector, most recently in the field of human trafficking, domestic abuse, and sexual assault where she works with offenders to break the cycle of violence at the YWCA. She holds a Master of Social Work form the University of the U.S. Virgin Islands as well as a Bachelor of Social Work from University of Wisconsin - Superior. Prior to working with the YWCA, she worked in homelessness, youth empowerment, and served as an adjunct professor. She has built programs and teams throughout her career.

Gentry plans to begin November 15, 2024. "Waste Not Want Not fills such an incredible need in our community. It just makes perfect sense to help the environment by rescuing food and feed the hungry with it" says Gentry. The organization is excited to have Gentry join the team. "We are thrilled to have Kelly's depth of knowledge and experience in nonprofit. Her track record as a leader in program design, implementation, and evaluation will ensure we expand our programs in a smart and strategic way." Says Dr. Kathleen N. Spears, the organization's executive director. Gentry's hire is the second in recent months as long-time Executive Director - Sandra Staudt Killea -has plans to retire on November 30, 2024, after serving 21 years at the helm.

## 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 organizations; 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: <u>www.wastenotflorida.org</u>.