



3318 92<sup>nd</sup> Street South  
Lakewood, WA 98499

# Press Release

Contact: Liz Dunbar, Interim  
Executive Director  
Phone: 253.584.1040  
Helen McGovern, 253.380.6720  
[www.efoodnet.org](http://www.efoodnet.org)

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## **EMERGENCY FOOD NETWORK ANNOUNCES NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

Lakewood, WA:

Mike Hargreaves, chair of the Board of Emergency Food Network (EFN), announced today that Helen McGovern will be the new Executive Director for EFN, beginning April 1. Helen is currently the Managing Director for the Colliers International Tacoma office and a member of the Lakewood City Council for the last eight years. She brings extensive experience as a proven leader in the community, having served on the boards of several organizations including Clover Park Rotary (past president), Clover Park Technical College, Safe Streets, and American Leadership Forum. She succeeds David Ottey, long time Executive Director of EFN, who retired the end of December.



Helen will take over the reins at EFN at a critical time, when the need for emergency food is increasing at dramatic levels. Use of food banks grew 22% from 2007 to 2008. Started in 1982, EFN's mission is to provide a reliable food supply so that no person in Pierce County goes hungry. EFN meets that mission by operating a food distribution center, a farm, and an orchard, distributing over 10 million pounds of food to food banks and hot meal sites throughout Pierce County.

Mike Hargreaves, chair of the Board and owner of Stadium Thriftway, said "The Board of EFN conducted an extensive search to find the right person to succeed David Ottey and we have found her. Helen brings a

wealth of experience and passion to EFN which will help lead us to the next level as an organization." Helen's response at being selected was, "It is an honor to follow in David's footsteps. His dedication and innovations have set EFN apart from other organizations. I want this to serve as notice to those of you I have worked with over the last twenty five years in the business community that I will be calling on you to continue our partnerships with a different emphasis."

One of Helen's first tasks will be to attend the Draft Horse Plow on April 4<sup>th</sup> at Mother Earth Farm, a program of EFN. Teams of drivers and plow horses from Hames & Tugs Draft Horse Club will plow fields to prepare for spring planting. Everyone is welcome. For more information on EFN and the Draft Horse Plow, visit the website: [www.efoodnet.org](http://www.efoodnet.org).