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SPRING 2018

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# Primerus Fights Hunger at Home and Around the World

In 2016, 815 million people, or 11 percent of the world's population, were hungry – up 38 million from the previous year. This marked the first increase in global hunger after more than a decade of decline.

That year, when a small group of Primerus attorneys was seeking a cause for Primerus members around the world to embrace, they found those United Nations statistics too startling to ignore. So the *Primerus Fights Hunger* effort was born. Launched at the Primerus Global Conference in October 2017, the effort continues throughout 2018.

It's an issue Terence Stewart, managing partner of Primerus member firm Stewart and Stewart in Washington, D.C. has cared about for a long time, including writing papers exploring the global food crisis. His law firm works in international trade and trade regulation, so they're no strangers to tackling global issues.

"When you see the kinds of reports that are coming out of the United Nations, that 20 million people are starving to death in 2017, the only reason that can happen is if there's a failure of the body politic to respond and open their hearts to people in need," Stewart said. "This is a matter of life and death for hundreds of thousands upon millions of people. How could that not be important to law firms who are interested in the rule of law and decent livelihood for all?"

Stewart, joined by a working group of other Primerus members, set out to organize an effort that would allow Primerus firms to exemplify one of the Six Pillars – community service – by combating hunger locally and globally. The group also included Robin Lewis of Mandelbaum Salsburg in

Roseland, New Jersey; John Pearce of Gordon Arata Montgomery Barnett in New Orleans, Louisiana; Tim Sullivan of Ogden & Sullivan in Tampa, Florida; and John Hemenway of Bivins & Hemenway in Tampa, Florida.

The effort, called *Primerus Fights Hunger*, invites Primerus firms to get involved in their own cities, and globally:

- Locally, firms may collect food and canned goods to be donated to a food bank of their choice.
- Globally, firms may make a contribution to the United Nations World Food Programme for the cost of at least one billable hour. The World Food Programme delivers food and assistance to hungry people around the world.

Primerus then asks that firms report their participation to Chris Dawe, Primerus Vice President of Services and Associate General Counsel.

Stewart's firm already took action, with firm employees contributing around \$6,000 to the World Food Programme, as well as organizing a food drive for the Capital Area Food Bank last year. Other Primerus firms have done the same, including:

- Barton LLP donated to City Harvest.
- Coleman & Horowitz donated to Fresno Community Food Bank.
- Degan, Blanchard & Nash donated to Second Harvest Food Bank in New

Orleans, Louisiana, and Greater Baton Rouge Food Bank.

- Demler, Armstrong & Rowland donated to the San Francisco Food Bank.
- Earp Cohn donated to the Food Bank of South Jersey.
- Ogden & Sullivan donated to Metropolitan Ministries in Tampa, Florida.
- Rosen Hagood donated to Lowcountry Food Bank in Charleston, South Carolina.
- Rothman Gordon donated to the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank.
- Spicer Rudstrom donated to Second Harvest Food Bank in Nashville, Tennessee; Chattanooga Area Food Bank; and Mid-South Food Bank in Memphis.

Stewart said there's still time to participate throughout 2018, whether in their own city or through the United Nations.

"You deal with it at a local level because that's where you live, and if you can, you try to deal with it on a global level since there are a lot of people less fortunate than you," Stewart said.

For more information about *Primerus Fights Hunger*, visit [primerus.com/primerus-fights-hunger-join-the-fight.htm](http://primerus.com/primerus-fights-hunger-join-the-fight.htm). 

