



UNITED FRESH START FOUNDATION

**NEWS RELEASE**

**For Immediate Release, December 15, 2016**

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**United Fresh Start Foundation Donates Salad Bars to  
School City of East Chicago, Indiana**

*Improving Child Nutrition to Mitigate Lead Absorption*

EAST CHICAGO, IN (December 15, 2016) – To promote overall good nutrition and help limit the absorption of lead by children in East Chicago, the United Fresh Start Foundation is donating salad bars to all schools in the School City of East Chicago district. More than 4,600 students in the East Chicago, Indiana community will soon have access to a wide variety of fresh fruits and vegetables every day at lunch. These seven schools will launch their new salad bars in January of 2017:

1. Washington Elementary School
2. Carrie Gosch Elementary School
3. Harrison Elementary School
4. Lincoln, Elementary School
5. McKinley Elementary School
6. Joseph L. Block Middle School
7. East Chicago Central High School

“Good nutrition plays a pivotal role in helping to limit the body’s absorption of lead. Increasing consumption of fresh fruits and vegetables, especially those that are sources of calcium, vitamin C and iron, is critically important for children exposed to lead,” said Dr. Lorelei DiSogra, Vice President of Nutrition and Health, United Fresh Produce Association. “The salad bars donated to School City of East Chicago will make it easy for the school district to offer students a wide variety of fresh fruits and vegetables every day at school lunch.”

The United Fresh Start Foundation, a founding partner of the national *Let’s Move Salad Bars to Schools* initiative, became aware of the lead contamination issues in East Chicago from the USDA Food and Nutrition Service Midwest Regional Office. This action represents one small part of an overall response by USDA, federal, state and local partners to address the lead contamination in East Chicago. The Foundation had previously donated salad bars to 22 schools in Flint, MI.

“We really appreciate the generous contributions of the United Fresh Start Foundation to the East Chicago schools. These new salad bars will assist East Chicago Schools to offer fresh and appealing choices that will help students get more of the important nutrients their bodies need,” said Tim English, Midwest Regional Administrator for USDA’s Food and Nutrition Service.

The United Fresh Start Foundation and Chicago-area produce companies, JAB Produce, Strube Celery & Vegetable Company, and The Tom Lange Company, donated the funds to provide the salad bars to the seven East Chicago schools.

The United Fresh Start Foundation is a founding partner of the national *Let’s Move Salad Bars to Schools* initiative, which to date has donated salad bars to over 4,800 schools in all fifty states. The Foundation works with the produce industry, healthcare organizations, non-profits and allied businesses to support salad bars for schools as a way to increase children’s access and consumption of fresh fruits and veggies every day at school.

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**About the United Fresh Start Foundation**

The United Fresh Start Foundation is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization focused exclusively on increasing children's access to fresh fruits and vegetables. Affiliated with the United Fresh Produce Association, the Foundation is committed to helping today's children achieve the public health goal to make half their plate fruits and vegetables in order to live longer and healthier lives. The Foundation works to create an environment where kids have easy access to high-quality, great-tasting and affordable fresh fruits and vegetables, ensuring kids everywhere are *Growing Up Fresh*.