

*Good morning,*

*My name is Hugh Williams, Chairman of Umoja Supply Chain Solutions. I am thrilled to be part of a company tackling the food insecurity issue we are facing in the United States. Umoja is Swahili for Unity and our goal, among others, is to be the unifying force between those in need and those who want to help.*

*I lived with my grandmother in the Jamaican countryside until my parents and I emigrated to the U.S. Food insecurity is something that I have witnessed firsthand. It is a problem for developing nations, but it is quickly and insidiously becoming a bellwether economic issue at our front door - in the world's leading economy – right here in the United States of America.*

*My background is in real estate and sports, two areas that require a certain tenacity, perseverance and creativity to succeed. Every day my education is broadened in the world of food banking and hunger relief. I have discovered that the same attributes just referenced, are required to succeed at all levels of hunger relief organizations. I have tremendous respect for the tireless work food banks and food pantries have performed during the pandemic. Having heard so many stories of long lines, longer hours, supply chain disruptions, and volunteer shortages, I truly believe every food bank in America should be commended for going above and beyond to continue serving their communities.*

*Now I would like to do my part, bringing my connections and resources to the fight against hunger. Umoja Supply Chain Solutions has built a passionate team with years of experience servicing food banks and hunger relief organizations. We are already putting our expertise to work at all three of our strategically located warehouses, introducing new ideas that food banks and food sellers have wanted for years but found difficult to implement.*

- *Fresh + Pantry Food Combo distribution-ready boxes*
- *Pairing produce with healthy shelf-stable products*
- *Expanding our Food as Medicine directive.*

*Furthermore, our relationships with FedEx and UPS make convenient, at-home delivery a reality for all our food bank partners. Our warehousing locations provide coverage across the country, keeping freight costs manageable.*

*All that said, I just want to introduce myself and say again how excited I am to do my part. Our Umoja Supply Chain Solutions team is here to help you fulfill your mission and will continue developing innovative ideas to make your food dollar go further to support those in need in your communities. I know that we can accomplish incredible things through our shared passion for equity and access to food and health for all. There is an old African Proverb that I find applicable to all things – ‘If you want to go fast, go alone, but if you want to go far, go together’*

