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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Denver International Airport Launches Food Donation Partnership with Metro Caring**

**DENVER – Jan. 5, 2015** – Denver International Airport (DEN) today announced the launch of a food donation program that allows participating airport partners to donate unsold food products to hungry families and individuals through Metro Caring.



The Denver International Airport Food Donation Program is managed by the airport's Environmental Services section in partnership with Metro Caring, a leading Colorado hunger relief program that distributes nutritious food to families and individuals in need, while also promoting health and self-sufficiency.

"Denver International Airport has committed to a year of service as part of our 20th anniversary, and we are proud to partner with many of our restaurants and food service companies to provide high-quality food to people in need through Metro Caring," said airport CEO Kim Day. "These donations will aid a worthy hunger relief effort that supports our community, while also supporting our commitment to reduce the amount of waste sent to the landfill."

The program provides coolers on loan from United Airlines that participating DEN partners can fill with leftover prepared entrees, side dishes, prepackaged salads and sandwiches, sealed beverages, condiment packets, canned goods and other items that are then picked up by Metro Caring for distribution. Donations must meet food quality and safety standards, and participating concessions may also see tax benefits from donated items.

"Each year, 40 percent of U.S. food goes to waste," said Ryan Galanaugh, program director at Metro Caring. "Think about that for moment. That amount of food would fill a 100-story building 44 times. The good news is that the challenge of food waste and food need is being addressed locally by Metro Caring and organizations such as Denver International Airport. The partnership between our organizations is an incredible sustainability plan for Denver's future health."

During the initial two-month pilot phase of the program, a total of 11 airport concessions have donated about 3,500 pounds of unused foods to Metro Caring. Participating companies include: Paradies (includes Say Si Bon!, Magic Pan, and Big Bowl), Root Down, Tastes 5280 (includes ModMarket and Happy Cakes Cafe), LSG Sky Chefs, Delaware North (includes Lefty's Mile High Grill and its prep kitchen), Villa Pizza and the CofTea Shop.

"More than 46 million people in the United States struggle to get enough to eat," said Bill Bolin, general manager of Paradies Food Services. "As restaurateurs, we are keenly aware that we are a source of leftover fresh, packaged and prepared foods that can be donated to combat hunger in our local communities. Each night, food that is still nutritious, but no longer meets the Paradies Lagardère's freshness guarantee, will be packaged and donated. By directing our surplus food from the landfill to our neighbors in need, we hope that we are able to help the community that we are a part of."

### **About Metro Caring**

Situated in the heart of Denver, Metro Caring is Colorado's leading hunger-relief not-for-profit organization. Annually, Metro Caring distributes over 2 million pounds of nutritious food (70% fresh) to hungry families across the seven county metro area. Metro Caring's diverse approach to fighting hunger includes a free, fresh-foods market, nutrition and gardening education, and tools for self-sufficiency such as financial literacy education, ID procurement, and food production/grocery job-training. Over 200 weekly volunteers contribute to daily operations. For more information visit [www.metrocaring.org](http://www.metrocaring.org) and follow us on social media.

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*Denver International Airport is the 17th-busiest airport in the world and the fifth-busiest airport in the United States. With more than 53 million passengers traveling through the airport each year, DEN is one of the busiest airline hubs in the world's largest aviation market. DEN is the primary economic engine for the state of Colorado, generating more than \$26 billion for the region annually. For more information visit, check us out on [YouTube](#), [Pinterest](#), and [Instagram](#), like us on [Facebook](#) and follow us on [Twitter](#).*

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