



Jill Zimmerman

Greater Chicago Food Depository

Special Award | 2024 Annual Philanthropy Awards

Jill Zimmerman joined the Greater Chicago Food Depository as Vice President of Development in 2012. Ms. Zimmerman, an experienced fundraiser across a variety of sectors including human services, education, and healthcare, leads the Food Depository's fundraising strategies, for continued support from individual donors, corporations, and foundations.

At the Food Depository, Jill has guided successful campaigns to meet rising demand and fuel emergency responses to hunger. In 2020, when COVID-19 caused unprecedented need across the community, Jill and her team quickly engaged new and longtime donors in a historic fundraising effort.

From 2017-2024, Jill played a leading role in a transformational capital campaign to upgrade the Food Depository's existing facility and create a new, state-of-the-art prepared meal center. As a result, the Food Depository will have the capacity to distribute up to 10,000 prepared meals per day.

Prior to joining the Food Depository, Jill served as VP of The Alford Group, a national consulting group to nonprofits, where she managed a diverse portfolio of clients and was involved in issues such as development, organizational management, strategic planning and governance. Jill was also director of resource development at Alternatives, Inc., the Chicago-based youth development agency.

She has worked as a consultant to UNICEF Liberia and taught in the professional development program at University of Chicago's Crown Family School of Social Work, Policy and Practice. Jill serves on the board of the South African Student Sponsorship Programme US affiliate.

Jill is a graduate of the University of California at Santa Barbara and earned a Master of Arts in Social Work from the University of Chicago.