

# News Release

## **Detroit Metropolitan Airport provides relief to federal employees**

*-- Today's food drive sponsored by Paradies Lagardere, Delta Air Lines,  
Wayne County Airport Authority and Forgotten Harvest*

**DETROIT (Jan. 22, 2019)** – Operations at Detroit Metropolitan Airport (DTW) and Willow Run Airport (YIP) remain normal, despite the partial government shutdown. This is due to the dedication of the federal employees who serve the airports operated by the Wayne County Airport Authority (WCAA), including Customs and Border Protection, the Federal Aviation Administration, Homeland Security and the Transportation Security Administration. To show appreciation for their hard work, the DTW community has joined together to support two initiatives.

“Our governmental partners have shown a level of commitment and professionalism that is unmatched,” said WCAA CEO Chad Newton. “Having worked in public safety, I can attest to the importance of our federal partners who work with us to ensure our airports and the skies are safe and secure. Although they’re not being paid, they come to work each day and continue to provide the excellent customer service our travelers expect. It is an honor to offer them some relief during this stressful time.”

WCAA and its concessionaires are offering DTW and YIP federal workers free food up to \$20, each day during the shutdown. Federal employees can visit a DTW location of their choice and purchase a meal, snacks and/or beverages. Restaurants and retailers—that sell food and beverages—are participating. A full list of the airport’s concessions can be found on DTW’s website: <https://www.metroairport.com/terminals/services-amenities/dining> and <https://www.metroairport.com/terminals/services-amenities/shopping>.

The second initiative to help federal workers is a partnership between Paradies Lagardere Dining Division, Delta Air Lines and WCAA. They have teamed up with Forgotten Harvest to host a food drive on Tuesday, Jan. 22, 2019 at Nomads – 10100 Middlebelt Rd., Romulus, Michigan.

More than \$3,000 worth of food has been donated by the DTW community for federal workers. With the guidance of Forgotten Harvest staff, DTW volunteers will organize the donations between 9:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. Federal employees will be able to shop from noon until 4 p.m.

“I walk by many of these workers every week. I know some of them. I imagined being in their shoes and knew we had to do something,” said Paradies Lagardere Dining Division Partner and Vice President Tanya Allen. “Paradies Lagardere and everyone who works in the airports depends on the federal workers to keep us safe. We are very interconnected and these are very unique and challenging times. We are here to be their safety net, as they are ours every day they come to work – even without pay.”

Forgotten Harvest was formed in 1990 to fight two problems: hunger and waste. Forgotten Harvest “rescued” over 41 million pounds of food last year by collecting surplus prepared and perishable food from over 800 locations. This donated food, which would otherwise go to waste, is delivered free-of-charge to over 260 emergency food providers in the metro Detroit area.

Forgotten Harvest encourages anyone who needs emergency food to go to <https://www.forgottenharvest.org/find-food/> for a map of Forgotten Harvest’s partner agencies, including their locations and food distribution times.

***Detroit Metropolitan Wayne County Airport (DTW)** welcomed nearly 35 million passengers in 2017 and is one of the world’s leading air transportation hubs. With service from 14 scheduled passenger airlines, Michigan’s largest airport offers more than 1,100 flights per day to and from more than 140 non-stop destinations on four continents. With two award-winning passenger terminals, six jet runways, and an onsite AAA Four-Diamond Westin Hotel, DTW is among the world’s most efficient, customer friendly and operationally capable airports in North America. DTW is operated by the **Wayne County Airport Authority**, which also operates nearby **Willow Run Airport** – an important corporate, cargo and general aviation facility. **The Airport Authority is entirely self-sustaining and does not receive tax dollars to support airport operations.** Visit [www.metroairport.com](http://www.metroairport.com) for more information.*

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