

Global Food Security Champion Headlines Zero Hunger Event

Meds & Foods for Kids Forum Spotlights St. Louis' Leadership in Fight Against World Hunger on September 18th

ST. LOUIS (AUGUST 26, 2025) - International leaders in the fight against world hunger will gather in St. Louis on September 18 to amplify solutions for building a sustainable food system. Meds & Food for Kids, a nonprofit dedicated to ending childhood malnutrition in Haiti with its U.S. bureau in St. Louis, will host Zero Hunger: Doing What Works with keynote speaker Ambassador Ertharin Cousin. Now in its third year, Zero Hunger highlights the role St. Louis plays in combating hunger and malnutrition worldwide. The event is on Thursday, September 18, from 5:30 to 8:00 p.m. at The Courses at Forest Park,6141 Lagoon Dr, St. Louis. Tickets are available at mfkhaiti.org.

Meds & Food for Kids (MFK) produces and delivers lifesaving therapeutic food and delivers it to starving children, even in Haiti's most isolated communities. Missouri-based leaders in the fight against hunger will join passionate supporters of MFK for the evening of insight and inspiration.

The keynote speaker, <u>Ambassador Ertharin Cousin</u>, is a globally recognized champion for food security. She served as executive director of the United Nations World Food Programme and U.S. Ambassador to the U.N. Agencies for Food and Agriculture. She now leads the <u>Food Systems for the Future Institute</u> as managing director and CEO, advancing equitable access to affordable, nutritious food.

Ambassador Cousin will speak on the topic of *Exploring the Future of Aid: Local Leadership, Public-Private Collaboration, and Sustainable Change.* She will discuss solutions for building a sustainable food system, including those that bridge the gap from relief to resilience as Meds & Food for Kids does. The Ambassador will also emphasize the value of investment and public-private partnerships to build the capacity of local communities and break the cycle of dependency.

Despite the challenges in Haiti, Meds & Food for Kids' innovative, locally driven approach has treated more than one million malnourished children, trained thousands of Haitian farmers, and built a model for sustainable food systems that empower communities to thrive.

"Every child deserves the chance to grow up healthy and strong," remarked Chris Greene, Chief Executive Officer of Meds & Food for Kids. "Zero Hunger 2025 spotlights how people and organizations in St. Louis lead the way in addressing the root causes of hunger and creating a future where every child is nourished. Ambassador Cousin will bring her extraordinary insight about the private sector's unique and powerful role in bringing solutions to scale, mobilizing resources, and ensuring that investments reach where they are needed most."

In 2003, <u>Patricia Wolff, MD</u>, a pediatrician and clinical professor of pediatrics at Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis, founded MFK to address the needless suffering and deaths of children from severe, acute malnutrition that she witnessed during her medical mission trips to Haiti. Over more than 20 years, the MFK team has developed an internationally recognized model of sustainable, locally led economic development that incorporates agricultural innovation, local manufacturing, and nutrition science.

<u>Tickets are \$71 per person</u>, the amount needed to treat one child with severe acute malnutrition in Haiti. Proceeds support MFK's lifesaving programs in Haiti.

About Meds & Food for Kids

Based in Haiti, Meds & Food for Kids (MFK) saves lives and transforms futures by treating malnourished children and mothers, training farmers, and creating jobs. MFK has treated more than one million malnourished children and pregnant and nursing mothers with ready-to-use therapeutic (RUTF) and supplemental foods (Medika Mamba/Plumpy'Nut, Vita Mamba, and Plumpy'Doz) produced at MFK's factory in Haiti.

MFK's solar-powered factory in Cap-Haitien – managed and operated completely by local staff in Haiti – provides a sustainable solution that interrupts the cycle of poverty, the root cause of hunger. MFK provides education and support to small plot Haitian farmers to increase the quality and yield of their peanut crops, training more than 3,800 farmers.

MFK partners with more than 150 clinics, schools, and humanitarian agencies in Haiti, including UNICEF and the World Food Programme.

For more information, visit www.mfkhaiti.org.

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