



FMI Foundation

2024 Year in Review

Foundation and SQF Food Auditing Scholarship Program

In 2024, the FMI Foundation and SQFI entered their 11th year offering Food Safety Auditing Scholarships to undergraduate and graduate students in food and agricultural science programs. In 2024, the program received a record number of 152 applications, up from 86 the year before. Over the eleven years of this program, we have awarded scholarships to 131 recipients, helping to promote careers in food safety auditing. 2024's awards cycle is underway and will be announcing the 15 recipients in December 2024.

National Family Meals Month™

National Family Meals Month™, held annually in September, celebrated its 10th anniversary. This year's campaign garnered additional attention through an expanded amount of press and Mat releases and publicizing family meals resources through a new LinkedIn retargeting campaign. The Family Meals Month design team devoted attention to a complete overhaul of the Family Meals Month toolkits, taking a more modular approach to provide retailers, wholesalers, manufacturers and product suppliers, and community collaborators with new resources to amplify their promotional campaigns celebrating September's National Family Meals Month™.

We updated our infographics and established a partnership with the National Federation of Families, which will expand our reach as we broadcast the benefits of family meals. The Foundation team participated in the National Federation of Families' Annual Conference, November 7-9, 2024 and hosted a family meal for 260+ conference attendees.

Additionally, in 2024, we partnered with dietitian and author Dave Grotto in promoting his first children's book, *The Girls Who Lived in the Refrigerator*. Dave has designated 15% of the proceeds from the book to the FMI Foundation's Family Meals Movement programming.

We continue to be the research-based repository of data regarding the many, many benefits to family meals. For instance, in our recent National Family Meals Month Barometer survey, 76% of respondents reported that they consider family meals to be a great time to have and teach respectful interactions, 70% believe frequent family meals create a safe environment for their families to discuss the thornier societal issues, and 68% agree that sitting at a meal together keeps conversations more civil. These data points coalesce to prove that family meals often are an optimal setting for teaching civility and as such provide a fantastic starting point for building a more civil society. According to the 2024 Harris Poll, assessing the scope and reach of the Foundation's National Family Meals Month, almost half of households with children are aware of National Family Meals Month, a household penetration unseen by most promotions. Better yet, 95% of those aware of National Family Meals Month have made a positive change within their households—showing the program's real impact on consumers today.

At the end of October, we hosted our annual Gold Plate Awards, celebrating notable Family Meals Month campaigns, activations, and initiatives. Six companies (Ahold Delhaize USA, Campbell Soup

Company, Coborn's Inc., the Foundation for Fresh Produce, Hy-Vee, Inc., and Skogen's Festival Foods) received awards, including within our new awards category, the Family Meals Movement category, which honors programs and initiatives made beyond the bounds of September.

Inspiring Careers in Food Workforce Initiative: Partnership with Junior Achievement USA

In 2024, the FMI Foundation team deepened its work with the *Inspiring Careers in Food* workforce initiative partner, Junior Achievement USA. FMI's Communications team, in consultation with the FMI Foundation team, redesigned the initiative's website, detailing more ways to engage through Junior Achievement's programs and creating an easier, more interactive user experience for member companies to connect with appropriate JA volunteer opportunities. These changes precipitated more sign-ups and aided in information access.

This workforce initiative is designed to expose young people to the wide variety of careers available in the food industry. We anticipate amplifying the website coverage of the expanding number of professional careers available to those beginning their vocational journey.

2024 Unified Voice Educational Events

Diversity, Equity, Inclusion Committee Digital Seminar Series

As an educational component of the bimonthly DEI Committee meetings, the FMI Foundation has hosted four DEI digital seminars in 2024, addressing (1) the June 2023 Supreme Court ruling in *Students for Fair Admissions Inc. v. President and Fellows of Harvard College's* conversation on implications for affirmative action programs, (2) the April 2024 conversation with Stephen A. Leach of The Walt Disney Studios/National Geographic, discussing the current DEI&B climate and infusing new energy in corporate D+I efforts, (3) the June 2024 presentation from Accenture's Adam C. Jones on metrics to track for successful D+I programs, and (4) the August 2024 presentation on the legal state of DEI with George Ingham from Hogan Lovells. These presentations convened DEI&B staff at member companies with labor and DEI experts across the field. The recordings for each of these meetings can be downloaded from the digital seminar resource carousel [here](#).

Animal Welfare Summit

In collaboration with the Center for Food Integrity, the FMI Foundation hosted a members-only Animal Welfare meeting on Friday, December 13, 2024. This virtual event focused on current animal welfare issues and the emerging Global Farm Animal Welfare Index's implementation. In collaboration with our Sustainability and Fresh communities, we promoted this convening to key members in the animal welfare space.