

PRESS RELEASE

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The Food Trust Appoints Three New Members to Board of Directors

Philadelphia, PA – The Food Trust is pleased to announce the appointment of three new members to its Board of Directors (pictured, left to right):

- **Susan Buehler**, Chief Communications Officer, PJM Interconnection
- **Richard Harris**, Partner, Holland & Knight LLP
- **Dr. Senbagam Virudachalam**, MD, MSHP, Assistant Professor of Pediatrics, University of Pennsylvania Perelman School of Medicine and the Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP); faculty member and primary care physician, CHOP; Senior Fellow, Leonard Davis Institute of Health Economics, UPenn



“The Food Trust’s Board of Directors is a dedicated, diverse and highly skilled group of leaders, and their commitment to our organization’s mission and values has been immeasurably crucial as we enact our 2022-27 strategic plan, *Partners in Promoting Nutrition Security*,” says **Mark Edwards**, President & CEO of The Food Trust. “We are thrilled to welcome the support, expertise and thought leadership of our new Board members – specifically in the areas of strategic communications, law and pediatric medicine, respectively – as we continue working together to further our mission of delicious, nutritious food for all.”

Susan Buehler has 25 years of media, marketing and strategic communications experience. At PJM, she has raised the profile of the nation’s largest electric grid and wholesale energy markets. Ms. Buehler is responsible for strategic communications, internal communications initiatives and messaging around energy policy along with crisis communications. In addition, she directs community relations initiatives.

Prior to joining PJM, Ms. Buehler was executive vice president of Bellevue Communications, where she managed the day-to-day operations and some of the firm’s largest clients, including Campbell Soup, Citizens Bank and

Temple Hospital/Temple University. Ms. Buehler is also an Emmy Award-winning former television journalist with experience working as a reporter, editor and producer at stations in Philadelphia, Des Moines and Sioux Falls.

Ms. Buehler holds a Bachelor of Science degree in broadcast journalism from the S.I. Newhouse School of Communications at Syracuse University along with a leadership certificate from Harvard University.

Richard Harris is labor and employment attorney in Holland & Knight's Philadelphia office. Mr. Harris has built his reputation as a lawyer who does his utmost to secure optimum outcomes for his clients. A natural consensus builder of rare diplomacy and tenacity, he is a gifted advocate whose keen legal mind and narrative mastery make him a formidable opponent in a courtroom. Originally trained as a trial attorney, Mr. Harris has evolved into a crisis management professional with a highly tuned degree of insight into the executive decision-making process and associated potential conflicts.

Prior to joining Holland & Knight, Mr. Harris was a shareholder for a global law firm in its Philadelphia office. He also worked as partner for a leading labor and employment law firm based in South Carolina.

Mr. Harris holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Maryland and a Juris Doctorate degree from the University of Pittsburgh School of Law.

Dr. Senbagam Virudachalam, MD, MSHP, is an Assistant Professor of Pediatrics at the University of Pennsylvania Perelman School of Medicine and the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP). She is a faculty member and primary care pediatrician in the Division of General Pediatrics, PolicyLab, and Clinical Futures at CHOP and a Senior Fellow at the Leonard Davis Institute of Health Economics at Penn.

Dr. Virudachalam's research focuses on food justice, advancing equity in diet quality, and health outcomes for all children. She studies cross-sector approaches to ensure that all children have stable access to healthy food environments at home and in their communities, enabling them to thrive and grow into healthy adults. Dr. Virudachalam serves the director of sustainable community health partnerships at the Community Health and Literacy Center in South Philadelphia and as the faculty lead for PolicyLab's Intergenerational Family Services portfolio.

Dr. Virudachalam holds a bachelor's degree from the University of California, Berkeley, a medical degree from the Pennsylvania State University College of Medicine, and completed her pediatric residency at UCSF Benioff Children's Hospital Oakland. She then completed an academic general pediatrics fellowship at CHOP and earned a Master of Science in Health Policy Research from the University of Pennsylvania.

About The Food Trust

Founded in 1992, The Food Trust works with neighborhoods, institutions, retailers, farmers and policymakers across the country to ensure **delicious, nutritious food for all**. To learn more, visit