

For Immediate Release  
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## **Celebrate Local Foods Week August 17 With ECDI's New Commercial Kitchen Open For Public Use**

*The Food Fort at ECDI will be celebrating the Grand Opening of its new commercial kitchen, August 17, during the Celebrate Local Foods Week. This is the fourth annual event where Columbus businesses come together to promote and support local foods.*

**Columbus, Ohio (August 10, 2012);** Saturday August 11 through Sunday August 18 all of Columbus will be celebrating [Local Foods Week](#) for the fourth year. As part of the week long activities ECDI will be hosting a Food Fort Fest on August 17 from 5 pm until 9 pm.

As part of the celebration, ECDI will be hosting the Grand Opening of its new commercial kitchen in it's subsidiary, [The Food Fort](#). "We will be showing off the new incubator kitchen spaces in the Eddie Grayson Culinary Lab with tours and samples from some of our kitchen clients," said Steve Fireman, President and General Counsel for ECDI.

The Food Fort's Commercial Kitchen was established with the small business culinary start-up in mind. Investing in a commercial kitchen can be an astronomical expense for a food company just getting started. With this type of community resource, new food companies can [rent a commercial kitchen](#) for a place to prepare their products in an environment that meets all of the local health department's safety requirements.

Guests, of the Food Fort Fest, will have the opportunity to enjoy signature dishes from several of the resident mobile vendors including Pitabilities, Ajumama, OH! Burgers, Per Zoot, and Kenny's Meat Wagon. Bleu and Fig Catering, one of the kitchen clients, will be doing cooking demonstrations and passing out samples.

In addition to food for the adults there will be activities and a DJ for the younger set. "We have some other surprises and treats in the works as well," said James Ellison, Food Fort Coordinator at ECDI.

The Food Fort at ECDI is located at 1655 Old Leonard Avenue in Columbus. For further information visit their website at <http://www.thefoodfort.com> or call 614-559-0115.

### **About ECDI**

The Economic and Community Development Institute (ECDI) is a non-profit economic development organization located in Columbus, Ohio. Its mission is *to invest in people to create measurable and enduring social and economic change*. Since its inception in 2004, the institute has in place a comprehensive suite of programming designed to support Columbus businesses and individuals. Program participants are given the training, tools, and assistance they need to

build their businesses, earn living wage incomes in the short term and purchase and maintain assets for the future.

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