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Biographies

[The Greater Boston Food Bank](#)

Catherine D'Amato, President and CEO

A tireless advocate for the hungry for more than 38 years, Catherine D'Amato assumed the leadership of GBFB in 1995. During her tenure, she has transformed GBFB into a \$95 million charitable business and increased GBFB's distribution from 7.5 million meals a year to more than 50 million healthy meals. She has grown GBFB's network to include 526 partner food pantries, meal programs and shelters across the 190 cities and towns Eastern Massachusetts.

Under D'Amato's guidance, GBFB has focused on providing nutritious food to those struggling with hunger and making the critical connection between hunger and health. In 2016, GBFB became the first food bank in the U.S. to hire a medical doctor and now partners with nine community health centers through GBFB's health and research program. A recipient of numerous awards for her leadership in hunger-relief, D'Amato is also a guest lecturer at the MIT Sloan School of Management, Boston University and other universities in Eastern Massachusetts.

[Children's HealthWatch, A Program of Boston Medical Center](#)

Stephanie Ettinger de Cuba, MPH, Executive Director

As Executive Director, Ettinger de Cuba oversees the development and implementation of the network's strategy, research and publications, provides strategic input and assistance for key initiatives, supports advancement of research and policy relationships, and directs the development and stewardship of Children's HealthWatch resources. She has co-authored more than 65 research and policy publications on a variety of subjects from food to housing to health care.

John T. Cook, PhD, MAEd, Principal Investigator, Assoc. Professor of Pediatrics

The principal investigator for Children’s HealthWatch, Cook also serves as an associate professor in the Department of Pediatrics at Boston University School of Medicine. His research interests include examining the effects of hunger, food security and energy security on children’s health and well-being and ways to increase access to affordable, healthy food. Research in progress is related to effects of food insecurity at its lowest levels of severity, including “marginal food security.” Topics of greatest concern at present are global climate disruption and diminishing fossil-fuel supplies, and their implications for low-income families’ economic viability, for food availability and affordability, and for public health.

Prior to joining Children’s HealthWatch, Dr. Cook was principal investigator for the federal government’s Food Security Measurement study that developed measures of food security, food insecurity and hunger for the U.S. population.

Ana Poblacion, PhD, MSc, Project Manager & Research Assistant

Ana Poblacion is a postdoctoral fellow at Children’s HealthWatch. Her research is concentrated on pediatric nutrition, with a particular focus on food insecurity in households with children in the U.S. and Brazil. Dr. Poblacion’s research is motivated by the goal of improving health in underprivileged populations by improving access to four central pillars supporting basic needs: food security, housing stability, energy security, and education attainment. In parallel with her work in Boston, she is a team member of the Interdepartmental Center for Food Safety and Nutrition in her home academic institution (Nisan/UNIFESP/Brazil).

Prior to joining the Children’s HealthWatch team, Dr. Poblacion was a professor in the Schools of Nutrition for several Brazilian Universities, including the Pontiff Catholic University of Paraná (PUCPR), Center for Higher Education of Campos Gerais (CESCAGE), and Ninth of July University (UNINOVE), teaching subjects related to Public Health Nutrition. She was also a Coordinator of the Specialization Course in Maternal and Child Nutrition for PUCPR. Dr. Poblacion graduated from the Pontiff Catholic University of Campinas (PUCCAMP/Brazil), and received her Master of Science and her PhD in Sciences from the Federal University of São Paulo (UNIFESP/Brazil).

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