

**For more information, contact:**

**Scott Keenan  
Lake County Branch Manager  
Northern Illinois Food Bank  
847-336-3663  
skeenan@northernilfoodbank.org**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Holiday Train Returns to Gurnee**

(Nov. 19, 2004) – The holiday season arrives in Gurnee in grand style on December 9 on the Canadian Pacific Railway Holiday Train. Lake County residents are invited to join the fun when this luminous train rolls into town. Decked out with thousands of lights and topped with a lighted Christmas tree, the train hosts nightly live musical shows from a custom entertainment stage car.

CPR Holiday Trains have traveled across North America for six years to raise awareness and resources in the fight against hunger. This is the third year one of the two Holiday Trains will stop in Gurnee to support the Northern Illinois Food Bank.

“We are very pleased that the Canadian Pacific Railway’s Holiday Train will be returning to Gurnee to help hungry people during the holiday season,” said Scott Keenan, Lake County branch manager of the food bank. “The Lake County Chamber of Commerce and the Gurnee business community are planning another year of great fun for the community. We are very grateful for their support in fighting hunger in Lake County.”

Although no food will be put on the train, this event is a wonderful opportunity to raise funds and collect nonperishable food items for the food bank. Northern Illinois Food Bank provides food assistance in 13 northern Illinois counties by receiving donated food from retailers, manufacturers, corporations, and community resources and distributing it to hungry people through a network of nonprofit food assistance agencies.

The food bank is a member of America’s Second Harvest, the nation’s food bank network. Headquartered in St. Charles, Northern Illinois Food Bank opened a Lake

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County branch in Park City in 2001.

The Holiday Train will arrive in Gurnee on Thursday, Dec. 9, at 7:15 p.m. at the north side of Grand Avenue underpass, on the east side of Depot Road across from Viking Park. People are encouraged to arrive early, park in Viking Park, drop off their food or monetary donations at Viking Park, and then proceed to the viewing site on Depot Road for food, fun, and family activities starting at 6:00 p.m. The show starts at 7:25 p.m. and ends at 7:55 p.m. The train will leave at 8:05 p.m.

Since 1999, CPR's Holiday Trains have raised more than \$1.5 million (Canadian) and close to 213 tons of food for food banks along the Holiday Train routes across Canada and in the U.S. Northeast and Midwest.

If you are unable to attend the Holiday Train event, but would like to help provide food assistance to a hungry family this holiday season, call Northern Illinois Food Bank in Lake County at 847-336-3663. The annual Holiday Meal Box program provides a traditional holiday meal for eight for each \$25 donated. Donations can be sent to Northern Illinois Food Bank, 600 Industrial Drive, St. Charles, IL 60174.

For more information about Northern Illinois Food Bank, visit [www.northernilfoodbank.org](http://www.northernilfoodbank.org) or call 630-443-6910.

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