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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**United Way of the DuPage Area Partners with Northern Illinois Food Bank to
Answer the Need of the Hungry**

ST. CHARLES, IL (Oct. 7, 2004) – United Way of the DuPage Area (UWDA) has made a bold step to help reduce hunger in DuPage County by committing to a one-time impact grant of \$65,000 to Northern Illinois Food Bank (NIFB) that will directly benefit food pantries that serve the 29 communities associated with UWDA. To feed the hungry, NIFB works to make food available to its agency partners who feed hungry people directly. In response to the publicized need for more food, United Way of the DuPage Area acted quickly to answer this need.

When United Way volunteers became aware of the growing need for food, UWDA Chief Professional Officer Tana Tatnall immediately contacted H. Dennis Smith, Executive Director for NIFB. Poverty in DuPage County has increased from 3.2% to 5.5% in the past three years, according to U.S. Census data – 12,000 families, or 50,000 individuals now live in poverty in DuPage County. Many people who are above the poverty level still need help in putting food on their tables. United Way's goal was to make sure that its assistance offered help to as many families as possible.

The \$65,000 grant begins October 18, 2004 and will match \$.25 of each \$1.00 of the shared maintenance fees of food ordered by food pantries in UWDA's service area. The grant will supplement the food pantries budgets so they will be able to stretch their dollars and receive more food for the hungry. NIFB will administer the grant as the food

is ordered. Based on previous programs of this nature, NIFB anticipates that food distributed through this grant will help provide 1.6 million pounds of food or 1,230,769 meals for DuPage area residents.

United Way of the DuPage Area serves the communities of Addison, Bensenville, Bloomingdale, Burr Ridge, Carol Stream, Clarendon Hills, Darien, Downers Grove, Elmhurst, Glen Ellyn, Glendale Heights, Hinsdale, Itasca, Keeneyville, Lisle, Lombard, Medinah, Oak Brook, Oakbrook Terrace, Roselle, Villa Park, Warrenville, West Chicago, Westmont, Wheaton, Willowbrook, Winfield, Wood Dale, and Woodridge. UWDA is distributing \$2,403,932 this year to 43 local health and human care agencies serving these communities. For more information about United Way of DuPage Area, visit www.uwdupage.org or call (630) 645-6339.

Northern Illinois Food Bank, a member of America's Second Harvest The Nation's Food Bank Network, receives donated food from large manufacturers, corporations, and community resources and distributes it to hungry people through its network of nonprofit food assistance agencies in 13 northern Illinois counties. NIFB distributed 15 million pounds of food during fiscal year 2004 through its network of 450 nonprofit food assistance sites. For more information about Northern Illinois Food Bank, visit www.northernilfoodbank.org or call (630) 443-6910.

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