

MEDIA ADVISORY

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The UPS Foundation Funds Northern Illinois Food Bank's New Mobile Pantry

FEBRUARY 23, 2005 -- People in need of food assistance in 13 suburban and rural counties in northern Illinois will have better access to the food they need thanks to the generosity of The UPS Foundation, the charitable arm of United Parcel Service. A grant from The UPS Foundation enabled Northern Illinois Food Bank (NIFB) to purchase a Mobile Pantry truck that can distribute food directly to hungry people.

"The Mobile Pantry is an important new way to serve the growing number of people seeking help at food pantries and other food assistance sites," said H. Dennis Smith, executive director of the food bank. "We are grateful to UPS for its generous support in the fight against hunger."

The new Mobile Pantry is a "traveling food pantry" that delivers food directly to hungry people in need of food. The 35-foot truck carries nonperishable food, like rice, canned protein sources, pasta, and breakfast cereals, and also has refrigerated bays for fresh and frozen food, like vegetables, fruits, bread, red meat, poultry, pork, and seafood.

Clients can select food coming directly from the truck, thereby helping food pantries that lack adequate storage facilities for large quantities of food. The Mobile Pantry is also able to serve locations of concentrated need where residents may lack transportation to food assistance agencies or where agencies do not exist.

"UPS and its employees have always been committed to serving the communities where we live and work," said Evern Cooper, president of The UPS Foundation and vice president of UPS corporate relations. "UPS's support of Northern Illinois Food Bank signifies our shared focus and commitment to improve our communities."

The UPS Foundation was established in 1951 to develop and champion innovative solutions to social problems. With hunger relief as one focus, The UPS Foundation has supported food banks and local feeding programs since 1989 through programs to distribute prepared and perishable food. The Foundation has helped local organizations by providing more than \$10 million to help recover and distribute more than 300 million pounds of food to feed hungry Americans. UPS is the world's largest package delivery company and a global leader in supply chain services.

Northern Illinois Food Bank (NIFB) gathers donated food from retailers, manufacturers, corporations, and community resources and distributes it through a network of 480 nonprofit food assistance sites to help the 227,000 people living in poverty in 13 northern Illinois counties. NIFB is a member of America's Second Harvest - The Nation's Food Bank Network.

The food bank distributed 19.5 million pounds of food in 2004, a 36 percent increase over the previous year. The food bank's main warehouse is in St. Charles and branch offices are in Park City and Rockford. The food bank currently serves nonprofit agency partners in Boone, DeKalb, DuPage, Grundy, Kane, Kankakee, Kendall, Lake, McHenry, Ogle, Stephenson, Will, and Winnebago Counties.

For more information about Northern Illinois Food Bank, visit www.northernilfoodbank.org or call 630-443-6910.

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