



MEDIA RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Good Nutrition Builds Strong Bones! *Rockford Orthopedic Associates Supports Northern Illinois Food Bank's Youth Nutrition Programs*

ROCKFORD, IL – (December 1, 2006) – Physicians and employees of Rockford Orthopedic Associates (ROA), Rockford's largest full-service orthopedic clinic, rehabilitation and surgical center, have once again come together to raise funds in support of Northern Illinois Food Bank (NIFB) and its Rockford branch, the local food bank serving pantries, soup kitchens, shelters, and other nonprofit food assistance sites in northern Illinois. The \$13,100 donation was presented to NIFB at ROA's annual holiday party on Friday, December 1, 2006.

"We thank Rockford Orthopedic Associates for joining Northern Illinois Food Bank in our commitment to fighting childhood hunger in Rockford," said H. Dennis Smith, NIFB executive director and CEO. "In the past year, Rockford Orthopedic Associates' support has helped Northern Illinois Food Bank expand our Youth Nutrition Programs. This partnership helps bring nutritious, hot meals and after school snacks to children in this community. We look forward to our continued relationship with Rockford Orthopedic Associates and the opportunity to raise hunger awareness and provide nutritious food to children who may otherwise go without."

"Rockford Orthopedic Associates physicians and staff care. We are deeply concerned for the needs of the less fortunate in our own community," said Dr. Brian Bear, CEO of ROA. "We are happy to be able to support the Northern Illinois Food Bank's efforts to provide nutritious food to children and others in the greater Rockford area."

Northern Illinois Food Bank, a member of America's Second Harvest – The Nation's Food Bank Network, acquires donated food from retailers, manufacturers, corporations, and community resources and distributes it through its network of 520 food pantries, shelters, soup kitchens, and other nonprofit food assistance sites to help the 262,465 people living in poverty in 13 northern Illinois counties including Boone, DeKalb, DuPage, Grundy, Kane, Kankakee, Kendall, Lake, McHenry, Ogle, Stephenson, Will, and Winnebago Counties. NIFB has been committed to helping feed hungry people for more than 20 years. For more information on Northern Illinois Food Bank or on how to get involved through volunteerism or donations, please visit www.northernilfoodbank.org or call 815.961.7283.

Rockford Orthopedic Associates is dedicated to providing patients with the highest quality orthopedic and musculoskeletal care. Their fellowship-trained physicians and industry leading technology are unmatched in northern Illinois. ROA takes pride in delivering compassionate care that meets the needs of every patient. In one convenient location, ROA offers physician consultation, diagnostic testing, outpatient surgery, physical therapy, and rehabilitation. For more information on ROA and its philanthropic mission, please contact Lynne Pratt at 815.381.7382.

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