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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### *Northern Illinois Food Bank Sponsors After-School Snack Program Sites*

ST. CHARLES, ILLINOIS, (November 27, 2006) – Northern Illinois Food Bank (NIFB) sponsors children’s after-school programs by providing nutritious snacks. With funding received from the Illinois State Board of Education, NIFB will provide snacks, at no cost to the program providers, to every child attending the approved site. To be eligible, at least fifty percent of children enrolled at the nearest school to the program must be eligible for free or reduced-priced lunch. Last year, NIFB provided more than 123,000 snacks to 29 after-school children activity sites. Currently, 42 children’s programs are enrolled in the snack program.

The Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) is a federally sponsored program of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) designed to help ensure that children and youth receive the nutrition they need to learn, play, and grow. NIFB snacks meet the guidelines established by USDA and contain the required combinations and portions of milk, juice, grains, protein, fruits and vegetables. Staff of the program sites is responsible for incorporating snack time into their program activities and serving each child. Arrangements for snack delivery are made with NIFB. To learn if and how your program may qualify, please contact Elizabeth Donovan at 630-443-6910.

The After School Snack Program is part of NIFB’s continued commitment to end childhood hunger. In Illinois, more than 15.3 percent of children live in poverty; 42.7 percent are enrolled to receive free or reduced-price lunches, and 16.5 percent are enrolled in food stamp programs. (Source: Kids Counts 2004: Voices for Illinois Children) In the operation of CACFP, no child will be discriminated against because of race, color, national origin, sex, age or disability. Any person who believes he or she has been discriminated against in any USDA-related activity should write immediately to the Secretary of Agriculture, Washington D.C. 20250.

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 480 food pantries, shelters, soup kitchens, and other nonprofit food assistance sites to help the 227,000 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. Northern Illinois Food Bank has been committed to helping feed hungry people for more than 20 years. For more information on NIFB, please call 630.443.6910 or visit [www.northernilfoodbank.org](http://www.northernilfoodbank.org).

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