



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Northern Illinois Food Bank Commemorates National Hunger Awareness Day 2006:

Hunger Helpers, Interfaith Services, Town Hall Meetings, Awareness Promotions

"The Face of Hunger Will Surprise You"

NORTHERN ILLINOIS – (June 1, 2006) – Who is hungry in northern Illinois? Look closely – you will see 262,465 citizens who are at risk of hunger because they are living in poverty in Northern Illinois Food Bank's 13-county service area and many others forced to make tough choices: Food or rent/mortgage? Food or medications/healthcare? Food or utility costs?

National Hunger Awareness Day is a grassroots movement that was established five years ago to raise awareness about the solvable problem of hunger all across America. The purpose of observing National Hunger Awareness Day is to bring attention to hunger - at least for one day. Hunger is rapidly becoming an epidemic around the world, across the nation, in each of the United States, counties, cities, towns, and rural areas.

To honor and commemorate the fifth anniversary of National Hunger Awareness Day 2006, Northern Illinois Food Bank (NIFB) is hosting five interfaith services – "Sharing The Bread", one town hall meeting on hunger, and partnering with local restaurants, banks, and grocery stores to raise awareness and fight back against hunger in northern Illinois.

Northern Illinois Food Bank's schedule of events is as follows:

Hunger Helpers 2006

Friday, June 2 – Saturday, June 3 from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Hunger Helpers - volunteers from Northern Illinois Food Bank's partner agencies (food pantries, soup kitchens, shelters, and other food assistance sites) will be collecting donations on Friday, June 2 and Saturday, June 3 between 9:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. to help feed our hungry neighbors. In 2005, more than \$46,000 was raised to help agencies throughout northern Illinois feed hungry neighbors.

Hunger Helpers will be found throughout northern Illinois at participating locations:

- Cub Foods
- Jewel-Osco
- Logli Supermarkets (Saturday Only)
- Sullivan's Foods

"Sharing The Bread" Interfaith Services

"Sharing The Bread" Interfaith Services will bring together individuals, leaders, and groups from a variety of different faiths and others from throughout the community to united for a service that focuses on sharing the bread to feed our hungry neighbors in northern Illinois.

June 5, 2006 at 7:00 p.m.

All Nations Church of Christ, 503 South Water St., Joliet

June 6, 2006 at 6 p.m.

Trinity Lutheran Church, 200 N. First St., Rockford



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"Sharing The Bread" Interfaith Services (Cont.)

June 6, 2006 at 7 p.m.

Holy Family Catholic Church, 450 Keller Ave., Waukegan
First Presbyterian Church of Wheaton, 715 N. Carlton Ave., Wheaton
Church of the Brethren, 783 W. Highland Ave., Elgin

Stephenson County Town Hall Meeting on Hunger

Community leaders, food assistance providers, community supporters, and others from northern Illinois will come together at this town hall meeting to talk about the 2007 Farm Bill and the issue of hunger in the community. A panel of local experts on topics such as urban hunger, rural hunger, nutrition & learning, community poverty & hunger issues will present their experiences and educate the community. A moderator will help to facilitate comments and questions.

June 6, 2006 at Noon to 1 p.m.

The Salvation Army Chapel, 106 W. Exchange Street, Freeport
A light lunch will be provided at 11:30 a.m.

Dine Out To Fight Hunger on June 6

Dine Out to Fight Hunger is a restaurant-based promotion to help raise awareness and funds to fight hunger. June 6, 2006, marks NIFB's first Dine Out to Fight Hunger event. As individuals dine out at any one of the 12 participating Panera Bread locations anytime on June 6 or at any one of the 13 participating Potbelly Sandwich Works locations between 5 p.m. and 8 p.m., a portion of the day's sales will be donated to help feed hungry neighbors in NIFB's 13-county service area.

Visit www.northernilfoodbank.org/menu-top-getinvolved-currentpromotions-dineouttofighthunger.asp to learn more!

Help Bag Hunger in Northern Illinois During June

NIFB is partnering with area businesses from June 1 – June 30 to raise awareness on the issue of hunger.

Individuals can help "Bag Hunger" by visiting a participating location and making a financial contribution to the fight against hunger. The goal is to make the community aware of the enormous challenge NIFB and its network of 521 food assistance sites face in the fight against hunger in northern Illinois.

These businesses include:

- Advantage National Bank
- American Bank & Trust
- Harris Bank
- National City Bank
- NorthStar Credit Union
- Oak Brook Bank
- Park National Bank
- West Suburban Bank

Visit www.northernilfoodbank.org/menu-top-getinvolved-currentpromotions-baghunger.asp to learn more.

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 over 520 food pantries, shelters, soup kitchens, and other nonprofit food assistance sites to help the 231,576 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.

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