



MEDIA RELEASE – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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TURNING WASTE INTO A RESOURCE

Veolia Environmental Services practices its slogan to help feed hungry people in northern Illinois!

ST. CHARLES, IL (August 16, 2007) – Veolia Environmental Services North America Corp. has partnered in the fight against hunger by donating a 16-foot refrigerated straight truck with a lift gate to Northern Illinois Food Bank (NIFB) through a grant from the Veolia Environnement Foundation. Veolia's support will help make food more accessible to hungry people. Because the vehicle is so versatile, it will help NIFB to strengthen its programs and initiatives through a more cost effective method of distribution, while providing numerous opportunities for a regular pool of volunteer drivers to help in feeding hungry neighbors. Directly tied with Veolia's practice of "turning waste into a resource," NIFB will be able to acquire and distribute MORE perishable products – including protein – in a flexible, food-safe, and frequent manner that meets the needs of its donors and agency partners.

"Northern Illinois food Bank is grateful to Veolia for providing funding for a new 16' refrigerated truck," said H. Dennis Smith, NIFB Executive Director. "We are very pleased to be the first local organization to receive a grant from the Veolia Foundation. This support from Veolia demonstrates what makes a great community-focused neighbor."

Veolia and its employees have seen the faces of their hungry neighbors by sponsoring and volunteering at multiple NIFB mobile pantry visits, "a traveling pantry" that delivers nutritious food directly to individuals in need of food assistance. Veolia has now committed to helping more people with the donation of this \$45,000 refrigerated truck.

"This truck will enable NIFB to increase the number of summer lunches and after-school snacks and suppers that it delivers throughout northern Illinois," continued Smith. "Plus, we will be able to add additional supermarkets to our food recovery routes, which will bring in many extra pounds of protein that can be provided to area residents who are in need of food assistance."

"The Veolia Environnement Foundation was developed to encourage Veolia's employees to be closely involved in outreach programs within the communities in which they reside," said Curtis Mabry, Veolia Environmental Services North America Vice President – Sales, Marketing and Communications. "We are very pleased that the Foundation has enthusiastically agreed to support the Northern Illinois Food Bank with this donation. The NIFB provides vital social services to the counties in Northern Illinois and Veolia and its employees are excited to play a part in their commitment to feed the hungry."

Veolia's generous support will allow non-CDL staff or volunteers to help NIFB provide additional quality service in the most cost effective manner. The refrigerated box truck will support NIFB's Food Rescue & Recovery, Youth Nutrition, Just In Time Perishables, and Community Food Drive Programs.

- **Food Rescue & Recovery** - Working with over 59 retail grocery sites in northern Illinois, Northern Illinois Food Bank picks up perishable food, including meat – beef, pork, & poultry - and distributes it to onsite feeding programs or food pantries. In 2006, over 1.5 million pounds of meat went from waste to resource due to this program.
- **Youth Nutrition** – This program addresses specific gaps in low-income children's access to nutritious foods through summer lunch meals, after school snacks, and evening meals. Many Northern Illinois Food Bank youth nutrition sites that participate in after school programs are safe havens that give children an opportunity to be nourished in several ways. The after school snack that they receive may be the last food they eat before they go to bed.
- **Just in Time Perishables** – Local food pantries vary in size and capacity, sometimes requiring deliveries at times of direct distribution to clients. Being able to respond with meat, dairy products, or produce within a specific time frame would help supply more nutritious food to hungry people.
- **Community Food Drives** – Corporations, organizations, or schools contribute valuable time and effort to orchestrating a "two-ton" food drive. Excitement, teamwork, and hunger awareness happen simultaneously. During the 2006 Holiday Season alone, nearly 200 food drives took place generating thousands of pounds of much needed product. The majority of food drives need barrel drop offs to collect the food and numerous pickups. Volunteer drivers are ideal alternatives to paid staff for community food drives.

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 275,008 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 24 years. For more information on NIFB, please call 630.443.6910 or visit www.northernillfoodbank.org.

Veolia Environmental Services North America Corp., headquartered in Lombard, IL, offers fully integrated environmental solutions to virtually all industrial, commercial, municipal and residential sectors. It is part of the Veolia Environmental Services (VES) group, the only global manager of liquid, solid, non-hazardous and hazardous waste; on-site waste processing, industrial cleaning and process maintenance; and recycling, recovery and disposal for both the public and private sectors. VES has over 82,000 employees in 33 countries and posted revenues of \$9.8 billion in 2006. Veolia Environnement (NYSE:VE), the parent of VES, with operations in water, waste, energy and transportation management, has more than 300,000 employees in 67 countries and recorded revenues of \$37.7 billion in 2006. For more information, please visit www.VeoliaES.com.

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