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Rep. Bill Foster (D) Tours NIFB and Volunteers his Time

(St. Charles, IL) Illinois' 14th Congressional District Representative (Democrat) Bill Foster was at the Northern Illinois Food Bank this afternoon to take a tour. He also had the opportunity to learn how the NIFB helps people in his district and even volunteered his time working on the line. During the tour Rep. Foster heard about technology as it relates to the Food Bank, the Youth Nutrition Programs, and the need for more space to keep up with new demands.

About Express Food Stamps

The NIFB is the only Food Bank in America involved in the Express Stamp Program. It is an internet based application process for food stamps that takes the application opportunity directly to where most people go for emergency food assistance-our network of local food pantries.

About Youth Nutrition Programs

To combat childhood hunger, NIFB operates the Youth Nutrition Program (YNP). The YNP provided over 389,165 snacks, meals and lunches in the past year to hungry children.

About needing more space

NIFB's Board of Directors voted unanimously to proceed with plans to construct a new Community Nutrition and Distribution Center that will allow the Food Bank to triple its distribution in the years to come.

About Representative Bill Foster

Representative Bill Foster was elected to fill the remaining term of former Speaker Dennis Hastert in one of the most closely watched special elections in more than a decade. His stunning victory was hailed by analysts across the country as a sign of the changing landscape of 2008. He was sworn in to represent the people of Illinois' 14th Congressional District on March 11, 2008. Recently he retained his seat in a re-election bid in November 2008.

About Northern Illinois Food Bank

Northern Illinois Food Bank (NIFB) is a non-profit organization that provides food to all those in need through its 520 partner agencies in the following 13 counties - Boone , DuPage, DeKalb, Grundy, Kane, Kankakee, Kendall, Lake, McHenry, Ogle, Stephenson, Will and Winnebago. NIFB acquires, gathers, handles, and distributes donated, government, and purchased food to more than 40,600 different people each week through local food pantries, soup kitchens, shelters, youth activity centers and other food

assistance sites. In 2008 NIFB distributed over 22.5 million pounds of food, including over 3 million pounds of frozen meat, fresh produce and bakery items picked up from retail stores through the Food Recovery Program. NIFB's main office and warehouse is located in St. Charles with branches in Lake County and Rockford and an office in Joliet. NIFB is a member of Feeding America (formerly America's Second Harvest). For five consecutive years NIFB has received a 4-star rating from Charity Navigator and is one of only 3% of charities in the nation to have achieved this recognition for fiscal responsibility. For more information about Northern Illinois Food Bank visit www.northernilfoodbank.org.