

For Immediate Release

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Northern Illinois Food Bank
delivering food assistance to your community

Rockford Branch of Northern Illinois Food Bank Needs More Volunteers to Help Get Food to Hungry

(Rockford, IL, Thursday October 8th) The Northern Illinois Food Bank (NIFB) is in need of volunteers to assist in feeding our hungry neighbors. There are over 100,000 pounds of canned goods sitting in NIFB's warehouse waiting to be processed by volunteers before they can be distributed to people in need. In hopes of getting more community involvement, NIFB is offering four new volunteer shifts, including two Saturday mornings and two Wednesday evenings each month. The Northern Illinois Food Bank would like to invite members of the media to cover a volunteer shift on Thursday October 8th between 9am and Noon at 320 S. Avon St. in Rockford.

“We have a great relationship with Del Monte in Mendota and Rochelle. They are donating canned fruits and vegetables, but we need to label the cans and sort them so we can get them from our warehouse to people's tables,” says Chris White, NIFB Rockford Branch Manager. “The last thing we want to see is these canned goods sitting in our warehouse. The food we receive from them could really help a lot of people, but without the labor force to process the cans, we can't release them,” White added.

The new volunteer shifts will begin on Wednesday, October 7th from 6pm-9pm and Saturday, October 10th from 9am-Noon. The new evening volunteer shifts are on the first and third Wednesday of every month from 6pm-9pm. The new weekend volunteer shifts are on the second Saturday from 9am-Noon and the fourth Saturday from 9am-11am. For all shifts other than the fourth Saturday, volunteers need to be 14 years old. The fourth Saturday is a youth shift so volunteers can be as young as 8 years old. “We are trying to offer openings that are suitable for people who work during the weekday or want to get their family involved,” said Tia Milne, NIFB Volunteer Manager. “This is a great way for people to help out in their community, meet new people and build their resume or college application,” Milne added. All volunteers need to sign up in advance and should contact Milne at 630.443.6910 ext 130 or volunteer@northernilfoodbank.org for more information or to schedule a volunteer shift.

The 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 50,000 different people each week through

local food pantries, soup kitchens, shelters, youth activity centers and other food assistance sites. In Fiscal Year 2009 NIFB distributed over 27 million pounds of food. The Food Bank has recently launched a Capital Campaign to build a new Food Distribution and Community Nutrition Center to enable them to handle more food more efficiently to meet the increasing demand.