

For Immediate Release

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Northern Illinois Food Bank
delivering food assistance to your community

Elected Officials Slated to Tour Food Bank

(St. Charles, 12-8-09) State and local elected officials will visit Northern Illinois Food Bank (NIFB) from 9-11 a.m. on Tuesday, December 8. The event will include a meaningful dialogue on hunger and the increasing demand for food assistance by local residents. Public officials and representatives of NIFB will discuss how public funds and programs help NIFB's charitable food network feed hungry people. Members of the media are also encouraged to attend.

Rising unemployment is causing more people to seek food assistance. There are 221,175 unemployed workers who live within NIFB's geographic service area which has an unemployment rate of 10.4%. All but three of the NIFB's 13 counties have exceeded the national unemployment rate of 10.2% with three counties in the top ten for highest in the state of Illinois.

According to a report released by the USDA on November 16, 49.1 million Americans are food insecure, including nearly 17 million children. NIFB is delivering vital nutrition to people in need, many who have never needed assistance before. The food bank will serve over one million meals to children this year.

"Never before has NIFB endeavored to have this many political leaders gather for a roundtable discussion on the best way to combat local hunger. We look forward to discussing public funding and how NIFB uses it along with private donations to better serve our communities," said H. Dennis Smith, President and C.E.O. "With a 35% surge in demand at our food assistance sites, we know that it will take a bi-partisan effort to have a positive impact on people who so desperately need our help now," Smith added.

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 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.
