

*****For Immediate Release*****

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**Carol Stream Man Receives Award for
Volunteer of the Year**

(Carol Stream, April 27th) In celebration of National Volunteer Week, Northern Illinois Food Bank held their 11th Annual Volunteer Appreciation Dinner – Celebration of Caring on Wednesday, April 22nd. During the event, volunteers were honored for their involvement in fighting hunger and feeding hope. Two organizations and seven individuals were given special recognition for the role they play in feeding the hungry. In particular, Carol Stream resident Stan Gajda was honored with the Food Banks *Volunteer of the Year (St. Charles Headquarters)* award.

Stan Gajda began volunteering with NIFB in 2005 as a member of the AT&T Illinois Pioneers. Along the way, Gajda became a volunteer supervisor. Now he leads volunteer groups for NIFB at least twice a month and has become a valuable asset to the Food Bank team. In addition, Stan also manages all of AT&T's volunteer involvement. As the project coordinator of the AT&T Illinois Pioneers, he actively recruits 40 plus individuals each month to help during NIFB's volunteer shift on the 2nd Saturday as well as schedules volunteer groups from AT&T locations throughout our service area to volunteer during the week. Stan has even made volunteering a family affair, involving his wife and children in the effort.

Gajda and thousands of others provided over 55,000 volunteer hours last year to Northern Illinois Food Bank. Volunteers are a huge resource for the Food Bank, and they invite you to get involved!

About Northern Illinois Food Bank (NIFB)

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.
