

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

For more information contact:

Sarah Slavenas
Northern Illinois Food Bank
630-443-6910, ext.39



**Gurnee Woman Receives Award for
Volunteer of the Year**

(Gurnee, 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, Gurnee resident Sue Denniston was honored with the Food Banks *Volunteer of the Year (Lake County Branch)* award.

Susan Denniston began volunteering at the Food Bank’s Lake County Branch over a year ago. In that time, she has already become an integral part of the volunteer operations there, as well as an important member of the Food Bank team. Every Wednesday night, Denniston’s inviting smile greets volunteers and staff alike. Her patient demeanor and positive attitude are contagious as she takes new volunteers under her wing and helps them understand the many facets of the meat evaluating and sorting process. There is no doubt that Denniston’s attitude and persona play a role in the many other volunteers returning to the Food Bank. She is always willing to help wherever she is needed, often staying well past the shifts end and often coming in during volunteer shifts on Saturdays.

Denniston 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.
