

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

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**Rockford Man Receives Award for  
Volunteer of the Year**

**(Rockford, April 27th)** In celebration of National Volunteer Week, Northern Illinois Food Bank held their 11<sup>th</sup> 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, Rockford resident Tony Di Giovanni was honored with the Food Banks *Volunteer of the Year (Rockford Area Branch)* award.

Tony Di Giovanni volunteers at the Rockford Area Branch every Tuesday and Thursday and has for the past three years. He donates his time to make agency deliveries, donation pick ups, sort and label meat, and his favorite project – working with canned goods. Giovanni has not missed a Holiday Meal Box pack day since he started with NIFB and always takes the position of palletizing the finished product, 2,000 boxes in 80 minutes and still makes it back on Tuesdays. DiGiovanni can be counted on in a pinch. With a phone call, NIFB can have a positive force on hand within an hour to help out no matter what the project may be. DiGiovanni also helps with supervising youth groups and other volunteers.

DiGiovanni 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.

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