



****For Immediate Release****

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\$10,000 Grant to Food Bank Helps Stock Shelves & Stretch Budgets

(Winnebago Co, IL) At a time when more people are finding it harder to make ends meet a \$10,000 grant to the Northern Illinois Food Bank (NIFB) is helping local feeding sites stretch their budgets and keep their shelves stocked. The “Take 25” food grant was awarded by the Community Foundation of Northern Illinois. The Rockford Memorial Development Foundation and Westminster Presbyterian Church have also contributed funds to the Take 25 Fund. The food grant will reduce food acquisition costs by 25% on each order beginning May 1st until the funding is depleted. In Winnebago County alone there are 59 member agency sites that will benefit from this generous grant. Those sites include food pantries, soup kitchens, and shelters.

“We are very pleased that the Community Foundation of Northern Illinois has decided to partner up with us in an effort to better serve those in need.” says Executive Director and CEO of NIFB Dennis Smith. “This aid comes at a particularly significant time considering the economic difficulties many are experiencing”

As of March 2009 (The latest month available for unemployment rates) Winnebago County had the 3rd highest rate of unemployment in all of Illinois at 13.2%. The high jobless rate is a contributing factor to the rising demand at local food assistance sites.

About Northern Illinois Food Bank

Northern Illinois Food Bank 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.

About the Community Foundation of Northern Illinois

As the area’s leading provider of philanthropic services, the Community Foundation of Northern Illinois stewards over \$62 million. Each year the Foundation awards grants and scholarships of over \$3 million on behalf of caring donors who want to give something back to their community.
