

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



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## **\$10,000 Grant to Food Bank Helps Feed Hungry**

**(St. Charles, IL)** At a time when more people are finding it harder to make ends meet, a \$10,000 grant to Northern Illinois Food Bank (NIFB) is helping to feed people in need. MAZON: A Jewish Response to Hunger donated \$10,000 towards the Food Bank’s efforts to acquire and distribute more food. With this gift NIFB will be able to provide over 61,500 meal equivalents to hungry neighbors. As the Illinois unemployment rate hovers above 10%, this funding comes at a particularly critical time.

“The Food Bank is greatly appreciative of the grant by MAZON” says NIFB Executive Director Dennis Smith. Ten of the 13 Counties served by NIFB have double digit rates of unemployment. The national rate of unemployment is the highest it has been in 26 years. Smith says, “Our Food Bank has seen a 35% surge in demand at the sites that we serve, and our goal is to give aid and hope to those in need”.

### **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 50,000 different people each week through local food pantries, soup kitchens, shelters, youth activity centers and other food assistance sites. In FY09, NIFB distributed over 27.5 million pounds of food.

### **About MAZON:**

A Jewish Response to Hunger is the only American Jewish organization whose sole focus is combating hunger. MAZON (Hebrew for “food”) is dedicated to inspiring, educating and mobilizing American Jews in support of ending hunger wherever it exists, strengthening the impact of domestic and international hunger relief programs through grantmaking and advocating for public policy that values and promotes self-reliance. Since it’s founding in 1986, MAZON has awarded grants totaling over \$50 million to emergency feeding programs, food banks, anti-hunger advocacy groups, multi-service organizations offering food, shelter and counseling, and small-scale hunger relief and development projects in Israel and poor countries.

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