

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

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Northern Illinois Food Bank

delivering food assistance to your community

Food Bank Gets Big Boost From Local Groups

(Will County, IL) Northern Illinois Food Bank (NIFB) is pleased to announce \$56,000 in contributions to support its mission of providing nutritious food to all those in need through its efforts and those of its non-profit partners. A \$14,000 donation was made by CARQUEST to help the Food Bank get more food into the hands of the hungry in northern Illinois. Another grant of \$42,000 by the Will County Community Foundation will support the Backpack Program. This program ensures that children who are at risk of chronic hunger are provided with a backpack of nutritious food for weekends and holiday breaks when other food sources are limited.

“Our hungry neighbors greatly appreciate the support of these two groups. This year we are on track to distribute 36 million pounds of food compared to last year’s 27 million. Without the aid we get from organizations like these, and others, we would not be able to address the 35% increase in people seeking food assistance,” says NIFB President and C.E.O. H. Dennis Smith.

“The Will County Community Foundation is pleased to make a grant to the Northern Illinois Food Bank for the Backpack Program at Parks Cultural Studies Academy in Joliet. This is the type of community collaborative effort the foundation looks upon to support where many partners come together to help those in our community who are truly in need,” says Sandor Brattstrom, Executive Director of the Will County Community Foundation.

“CARQUEST Auto Parts stores and WORLDPAC have a large presence in the communities that NIFB serves and felt this was a great way to give something back by assisting families in times of need where most of our teammates live and work. We are honored and fortunate to have many teammates that support the CARQUEST Charitable Foundation to provide the funds for the donation to be made to NIFB,” says Jeff Fletcher, CARQUEST Director of Distribution Center Operations.

About Northern Illinois Food Bank:

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 50,000 different people each week through local food pantries, soup kitchens, shelters, youth activity centers and other food

assistance sites. In Fiscal Year 2009 NIFB distributed over 27 million pounds of food. The Food Bank has recently launched a Capital Campaign to build a new Food Distribution and Community Nutrition Center to enable them to handle more food more efficiently to meet the increasing demand.