

## **Foundation awards \$30,000 to food bank, mobile pantry**

September 22, 2009

### **NEWS-SUN STAFF REPORT**

WAUKEGAN -- The board of The Lake County Community Foundation on Friday announced a \$30,000 award to the Northern Illinois Food Bank to bolster its emergency feeding network in Lake County.

NIFB will use the funds to strengthen its Lake County food pantry partners, but also to distribute 50,000 pounds of food directly to underserved county areas via its mobile pantry truck with the first stop next month in Zion.

During the first three months of 2009, NIFB's partnering food pantries reported a 45 percent increase in Lake County households receiving emergency food over last year, and more than 30 percent of these families had never before visited a food pantry.

"In these tough economic times, the Northern Illinois Food Bank and their pantries will literally be a lifeline for many Lake County residents," said Sylvia Zaldivar-Sykes, executive director of The Lake County Community Foundation. "The Foundation's goal is to help make sure that their emergency feeding network can not only handle the current spike in demand but also remain vital in the years to come."

The award also provides for immediate food distribution by funding six visits of the NIFB mobile pantry, a 35-foot refrigerated truck. The visits will provide up to 1,200 Lake County families with 50,000 pounds of food.

"With the Foundation's support of our Mobile Pantry and other unique feeding programs, we can now place more nutritious food right into the hands of the hard-to-reach people in Lake County," said H. Dennis Smith, NIFB's executive director and CEO.

The first Mobile Food Pantry distribution will take place Oct. 22 in Zion and will complete the foundation's fifth annual bus tour where attendees take a hands-on look at local nonprofit organizations. For more information about the bus tour, call (847) 377-0520, extension 101.

The grant is the Foundation's third Basic Human Needs Award presented to an organization taking a unique approach to helping county residents meet some of their most basic human needs.

The Lake County Community Foundation is an affiliate of The Chicago Community Trust. Since 2004, the foundation has awarded grants totaling more than \$1.2 million to over 65 Lake County nonprofit organizations.