

**THE  
LAKE COUNTY  
COMMUNITY  
FOUNDATION**

AN AFFILIATE OF  
THE CHICAGO COMMUNITY TRUST

114 South Genesee Street  
Suite 505  
Waukegan, IL 60085  
847.377.0520  
[www.lakecountycf.org](http://www.lakecountycf.org)

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Contact: Susan Niederlander  
847.377.0520 x 23  
847.609.5696 (mobile)  
[susan@lakecountycf.org](mailto:susan@lakecountycf.org)

### **Foundation Awards \$30,000 to Help Feed Lake County's Hungriest Residents**

(Waukegan, IL) The board of The Lake County Community Foundation today announced a \$30,000 Basic Human Needs Award to the Northern Illinois Food Bank (NIFB) to bolster its emergency feeding network in Lake County.

This 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. NIFB will use the funds to not only strengthen and sustain their Lake County food pantry partners, but also to distribute 50,000 pounds of nutritious food directly to underserved areas in Lake County via their Mobile Pantry truck.

The grant makes a direct impact on Lake County's critical issue of food security -- the availability of food and access to it. 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. Sadly, 33 percent of the people receiving food assistance were children. With the county's steadily increasing unemployment rate now hovering at almost 10 percent, the number of people needing emergency food is sure to rise.

"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."

This award also provides for immediate food distribution by funding six visits of the NIFB Mobile Pantry. The 35-foot refrigerated truck will visit locations in Lake County that are not served by traditional pantries. Local low-income residents will be able to select from high-quality items including meat and fresh produce. The six Mobile Pantry visits funded by this award will provide up to 1,200 Lake County families with 50,000 pounds of much-

needed, high-nutrition food. “When people in need of food can’t get to it, we do our best to take food to the people,” said H. Dennis Smith, executive director and CEO of the Northern Illinois Food Bank. “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.”

The first Mobile Food Pantry distribution funded by the Foundation will take place on October 22, 2009 in Zion, IL and will complete the Foundation’s fifth annual bus tour – where attendees take a hands-on look at local nonprofit organizations and explore creative ways of delivering critical social services. Bus tour participants will roll up their sleeves to help with the food distribution ensuring that nutritious food gets directly to some of Lake County’s neediest residents. For more information about the Foundation’s bus tour, please call 847-377-0520 x 101.

### **About The Lake County Community Foundation**

The Lake County Community Foundation, an affiliate of The Chicago Community Trust, is the vehicle that builds strategic alliances and educates donors about the challenges in the county, helping develop simple, powerful and personal approaches to giving throughout Lake County. Since 2004, the foundation has awarded grants totaling more than \$1.2 million to over 65 Lake County nonprofit organizations. To learn more, please visit the Foundation online at [www.lakecountycf.org](http://www.lakecountycf.org)

### **About The Chicago Community Trust**

For 94 years, The Chicago Community Trust, our region’s community foundation, has connected the generosity of donors with community needs by making grants to organizations working to improve metropolitan Chicago. In 2008, the Trust, together with its donors, granted more than \$100 million to nonprofit organizations. From strengthening schools to assisting local art programs, from building health centers to helping lives affected by violence, the Trust continues to enhance our region. To learn more, please visit the Trust online at [www.cct.org](http://www.cct.org).

### **About the Northern Illinois Food Bank**

Founded in 1983, the Northern Illinois Food Bank provides food assistance in 13 of Chicagoland’s northern collar counties. NIFB acquires donated food and distributes it through its network of more than 520 member agencies. In 2008 NIFB distributed 22.5 million pounds of food to more than 47,000 different people each week. In addition to food distribution, NIFB offers educational programs, advocates for hunger policies and funding, and conducts extensive outreach to those in need of food assistance. The NIFB is a member of Feeding America, the nation’s food bank network. Learn more at [www.northernilfoodbank.org](http://www.northernilfoodbank.org).

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