South Suburban Center will serve Will, Grundy, Kankakee and Kendall Counties

Fourth distribution center set to open in 2018

North Chicago couple makes generous gift

A lasting legacy

South Suburban Center will serve Will, Grundy, Kankakee and Kendall Counties
In the spirit of the season, thank you

Food is such a stabilizing force in our lives, especially this time of year. The Food Bank serves more than half a million people in Northern Illinois every year, providing them the comfort of a balanced meal thanks to your support. That’s a big number, but there is much more to be done. Countless children, families and seniors struggle with not having enough to eat on a daily basis. Hunger is a real problem in our community, but we know that together we can solve it.

Although our network is stretched thin in the face of continued hunger, your support allows our regional distribution centers to meet the need right where your neighbors live and work. Most recently, we’ve been working to identify how we can do an even better job of reaching our agency and program partners in a more efficient way. We’re happy to share that in 2018, we’ll be adding a fourth center, the South Suburban Center in Joliet, to help us better address hunger in some of our high-needs counties – areas that were difficult to reach from our existing centers. Thank you for supporting us as we work to serve more families more food year-round.

As we look ahead to the coming year, we see fresh opportunities to make a difference right here in our community. I hope you’ll continue to renew hope for your neighbors facing hunger by offering your generous support. What you do matters – your support is making Northern Illinois a better, healthier place for all of us to call home. Happy holidays,

Julie Yurko
President and CEO

P.S. – I’m happy to share that the Food Bank has received its 14th consecutive 4-star rating from Charity Navigator. Fewer than one percent of Northern Illinois Food Bank has received its 14th consecutive 4-star rating from Charity Navigator.

Provide More Meals
Ignite the Community
Build Healthy Communities
Strengthen Leadership
Maintain Frugality and Trust

Hunger Action Month

Hunger Action Month highlights from across the Northern Illinois Food Bank network include, but are not limited to:

- President and CEO Julie Yurko was featured alongside Kate Maehr, CEO of Greater Chicago Food Depository on September 1 to kick off Hunger Action Month in an interview for the ABC 7 Eyewitness News 11am by Terrell Brown and Tracy Butler.
- 150 restaurant partners across our service area helped us ‘Pass the Plate’ throughout September by accepting cash donations and introducing specials where proceeds benefited the Food Bank.
- Four Poverty Simulations were hosted by Judson, Aurora and Benedictine Universities throughout the month.
- The Elgin Cooperative Ministry invited the residents of Elgin to attend their first hunger summit at the Gail Borden Public Library to learn about the complex nature of hunger, how the community is currently working to address the issue, and how everyone can get involved. The Food Bank was honored to be a participant in this event, which had more than 70 attendees.
- A display case at Crete Public Library was orange all month for Hunger Action Month. The display informed visitors of the issue of hunger and asked them to take action and it worked: the library collected three shopping carts full of food!
- The iconic American Eagle at Six Flags Great America lit up orange through the month in honor of Hunger Action Month!
- Northern Illinois Food Bank’s Executive Women’s Council held a Commuter Blitz food drive at Naperville’s 5th Ave train station in the early hours of Go Orange Day. For their inaugural Blitz, they collected over 300 pounds of food and nearly $150 in cash donations!
- Northern Illinois Food Bank asks community members to take action to solve hunger. This year, nearly 20 events took place throughout our service area. From community-wide food drives to Poverty Simulations, Pack-a-thons held at our Northwest Center (Rockford) and North Suburban Center (Park City) to every agency, company, family, and individual who wore orange to raise awareness, it’s obvious the people of Northern Illinois want to ensure their neighbors have the food they need and deserve! Thank you to all who joined us for Hunger Action Month!

The Food Bank staff, volunteers and community partners recognized the month by going orange.

Donald’s story

As a military veteran, Donald was trained to face war. Now, he is engaged in a war with hunger. Sometimes, Donald just doesn’t have food to eat. He does his best to get by, but that’s not always an easy task. Just like in combat, Donald has to fight a daily battle of hunger. And he wants to win.

That’s why he’s so glad he can rely on friends like you for help. Thanks to your generosity, Northern Illinois member agencies can provide food for anyone who is hungry, including military veterans like Donald.

With the holidays approaching, your support impacts so many lives. Your generosity can make the difference between going hungry during the holidays or having a full plate. Donald has so much appreciation for the food he receives.

“Thank you for giving. It means a lot,” he says.

Because you choose to give, you’re changing lives across Northern Illinois both for the holidays and year-round. What you do matters to our neighbors in need, including veterans like Donald.

www.SolveHungerToday.org
Leaving a legacy of two lifetimes

Between Katherine and Joseph Triolo, they have lived more than 198 years, but one of their most memorable days was July 13, 2017. Just a few weeks before Katherine’s 101st birthday, the couple decided to distribute part of their estate and make major gifts to seven non-profit and educational organizations: “At this point in our lives, material things don’t matter to us,” Joe explained. “We decided to give our money while we are still living.”

Northern Illinois Food Bank is a grateful beneficiary of a generous gift from the Zion, Illinois-based couple who describe themselves as “good savers.” Their $510,000 gift—the Food Bank’s second largest individual donation ever—will have a lasting impact on the Northern Illinois community. Not only will the Triolo’s gift help open the Food Bank’s new South Suburban Center in Joliet, it will also help feed thousands of hungry neighbors in Lake County where they reside.

“This extraordinary gift from Joseph and Katherine will enable the Food Bank to make great strides toward solving hunger in Northern Illinois,” said Julie Yurko, President & CEO of Northern Illinois Food Bank. “The fact that they decided to do this now, while we have an opportunity to thank them in person and share the results of how their gift makes a difference, is such a blessing to me, our staff and our hungry neighbors.”

Katherine and Joe’s story began back in 1954, when Joe was stationed at Great Lakes Naval Station and Katherine was working at Abbott Labs. They first met one evening when Katherine and her friends visited a North Chicago hot spot known for attracting young sailors. Fast forward to today, and they have been happily married for more than 62 years, living in North Chicago for most of their marriage.

Joe is the son of Italian immigrants who settled in West Virginia where his father worked in the coal mines. Katherine was born in Arizona, and her family moved to North Chicago when she was just three years old for her father’s work, and from then on she has lived in Lake County. Joe served in the US Navy for 21 years, leaving as a Chief Boatswain’s Mate before starting a career as a teacher at North Chicago High School until his retirement in 1991. Katherine worked in the business department of Abbott Labs, where she first started investing through the company’s stock buying option.

According to Joe, it was a combination of Katherine’s disciplined saving and savvy investing, as well as an inheritance from her sister, that helped position them to become philanthropists earlier this year.

“When they became interested in learning more about charitable organizations in the Chicagoland area to consider supporting, their friend David Lee introduced the couple to Northern Illinois Food Bank. “Initially, Joe and Katherine were making plans to make gifts to these organizations in their estate, but decided to make the gifts now,” said Lee. This way, the Triolos could see the immediate positive impact of their contributions.

Thanks to his own recent volunteer and charitable experiences, David didn’t hesitate in mentioning Northern Illinois Food Bank as one of the organizations on the short list.

“When asked about their legacy, the Triolos say they are blessed to be able to make these donations,” said Yurko. “Meeting Joe and Katherine is one of the highlights of my time at the Food Bank.”

“Joe and Katherine are two of the most generous people of Northern Illinois, and to say that we are overwhelmed with gratitude to them is an understatement.”

Joe and Katherine Triolo have spent a lifetime helping others. Joe proudly displays his awards from his time in the US Navy. Julie Yurko and David Lee visit with Joe and Katherine after they made their generous donation.

Joe and Katherine Triolo have spent a lifetime helping others.

If you would like to talk about making a gift to the Food Bank that will leave a lasting impact, contact Gina Gramarosso, Senior Development Officer, at 630/443-6910, ext. 130 or ggramarosso@northernillinoisfoodbank.org

Joe and Katherine Triolo have spent a lifetime helping others.

www.SolveHungerToday.org
AROUND THE FOOD BANK

The Clarke team focuses on sinking the putt on the 10th green.

The winner from Exelon, sponsors of the 19th Hole Reception, poses for a photo on the scenic course.

One of the foursomes from presenting sponsor West Suburban Bank pose for a photo with the Food Bank’s selfie frames.

The Fischer Paper Products team shows off the most festive parts of the outing!

Representative from sponsor ACE Bakery enjoys delicious, delectable, and ambrosial food and drinks.

Thanks to all who joined us August 22 for the 19th annual Hunger Scramble Golf Outing presented by West Suburban Bank, and to everyone that helped make the event a success. Save the date for next year’s outing on August 21, 2018 at Cantigny Golf Club.

Stars and Cars Co-Chairs Brian McCaskey and Steve Foley Jr., and a record number of attendees helped raise $162,500, which equates to more than $1.2 million worth of groceries for our hungry neighbors. We are so grateful for your continued support!

Event guests, such as former Chicago Bear Ray McElroy, enjoy the luxurious cars in the Steve Foley Motors showroom.

Representatives from sponsor ACE Bakery enjoy the food, drinks, and ambiance.

Stars and Cars Co-Chair Brian McCaskey visits the Main Street Social tasting table, one of 17 tasting stations at the event.

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Upcoming Activities

See our complete calendar of events at www.SolveHungerToday.org

MARCH

A Cup of Hope, Hosted by Northern Illinois Food Bank’s Executive Women’s Council

Sunday, March 4
Hotel Arista, Naperville

Guests will enjoy sparkling wine and an extensive selection of loose teas, finger sandwiches, fresh fruit, pastries and scones while learning about the farm to table movement and designing with edibles, and will have the opportunity to win themed raffle prizes. To register or learn more, visit www.SolveHungerToday.org/CupofHope.

APRIL

Outlook

Save the date for our 2018 events!

ONGOING

Host an online Food & Fund Drive this holiday season!

Giving Matters – this season and always. When you’re hosting holiday celebrations, consider asking your family and friends to bring their favorite side and donation to Northern Illinois Food Bank. Every $1 donated will provide $8 in groceries. Make it even easier by creating an online holiday fundraiser at www.SolveHungerToday.org/FoodandFundDrive

APRIL

Foodie 5K Wheaton

Saturday, April 7 – 9 a.m.
Cantigny Park, Wheaton

Join us as we kick off our 5th annual Foodie 5K season at Cantigny Park in Wheaton, the first of three races, featuring a post-run festival with entertainment, food trucks and a kids’ zone to benefit Northern Illinois Food Bank. To register or learn more, visit www.SolveHungerToday.org/Foodie5K.

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Send comments/questions about articles in this issue to communications@northernilfoodbank.org