



For Immediate Release

Northern Illinois Food Bank Receives \$100,000 Grant from Cardinal Health Foundation for National Food Pharmacy Initiative

GENEVA, ILLINOIS – September 30, 2021 – Northern Illinois Food Bank has received a \$100,000 grant from Cardinal Health Foundation for a National Food Pharmacy Initiative that seeks to improve health outcomes for individuals experiencing or at risk for chronic health issues, such as diabetes and heart disease, by providing healthy eating options and education.

Through the Screen and Intervene initiative, patients who lack resources to buy nutritious food are assessed by a healthcare practitioner and referred to the Food Bank and its partners. Patients then receive nutrition education and access to Food Bank distributions, which include fresh produce and lean proteins. Additionally, patients learn about support services relative to them.

“We applaud the work Northern Illinois Food Bank is doing in its Healthy Communities Program,” said Cora Sheets, Director, Community Relations, Cardinal Health. “Screen and Intervene is an excellent example of engaging individuals needing health interventions and supplying them with core preventions to achieve healthy outcomes.”

“Thanks to the Cardinal Health Foundation grant, we can continue delivering on our commitment to solve hunger for neighbors with underlying health concerns,” said Sharon McNeil, RCP, MPH, Director of Community Nutrition Programs, who oversees the Food Bank’s Healthy Communities Program. “The more opportunities we have to provide access to nutritious foods for all of our neighbors, the healthier our communities will be.”

Screen and Intervene offers participants, depending on their location, different options to access nutritious foods at no cost. These include Rx Mobiles and Rx Markets nutritious food distributions, My Pantry Express (the Food Bank’s free online grocery service), and hospital-based food pantries. Additional services are available through the Food Bank’s SNAP and Resource Call Center, Child Nutrition Program and Senior Grocery Program as well as its social services partners.

“While these interventions directly address food insecurity as a social determinant of health, our partners also provide wrap-around services by partnering with local organizations that work on related issues, such as housing, employment, transportation, physical activity, education, and voter outreach. These interventions are designed to address multiple needs at a single point of service,” McNeil said.

For more information about Screen and Intervene, contact your healthcare provider or call the Food Bank at 630-443-6910.

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About Northern Illinois Food Bank

Our vision at [Northern Illinois Food Bank](#) is for everyone in Northern Illinois to have the food they need to thrive. A 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization and proud member of [Feeding America](#), we serve our neighbors in 13 counties with dignity, equity and convenience, providing 250,000 meals a day. We bring together manufacturers, local and corporate grocers, area farmers, corporations, foundations, and individuals who donate food and funding, and each week nearly 1,000 volunteers help us evaluate, repack, and distribute food. We also proudly partner with more than 900 food pantries, soup kitchens, shelters, and youth and senior feeding programs to provide nutritious food and resources. Our distribution centers are located in Geneva, Park City, Rockford and Joliet. Find out how you can [get help](#), [volunteer](#), [donate](#) or [get involved](#) at [SolveHungerToday.org](#), or follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#) and [LinkedIn](#).

Media Contact: Jennifer Clark

jennifer.clark@northernilfoodbank.org,

office: 630-443-6910 ext. 142

cell: 630-600-1701

Photos available