



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## United Way of Kankakee and Iroquois Counties Supports Northern Illinois Food Bank's Build Health Communities Program

**(GENEVA, Ill., October 6, 2022)** – Northern Illinois Food Bank recently received a \$2,000 grant from United Way of Kankakee and Iroquois Counties in support of our first hospital-based food pantry, a Wellness Food Clinic located at Riverside Healthcare's East Court Primary Care Clinic in Kankakee.

The Wellness Food Clinic is an intervention provided through our Build Healthy Communities Screen and Intervene Initiative, working alongside healthcare organizations to address the need for nutritious food for patients identified as food-insecure. The initiative's goal is for individuals with chronic conditions or those who are at risk for chronic disease to be able to access nutritious food that is vital for disease management and help them develop a healthy diet that can reduce future health risks.

Riverside Healthcare screens patients for food insecurity and those that screen positive receive a referral to visit the Wellness Food Clinic twice monthly to access an assortment of fresh fruits and vegetables, lean meats and other groceries at no charge. They may also receive wrap-around services, onsite, such as nutrition education and blood pressure and BMI screenings, through community partnerships, to address multiple needs at a single point-of-service.

Neighbors experiencing food insecurity are disproportionately impacted by diet-related disease and nutritional deficiencies. For our neighbors currently dealing with both chronic health conditions and limited resources, the risk is even greater. In FY22 (7/1/21 – 6/30/22), approximately 7,000 patients have been screened, of which 500 were referred to the clinic, which has served more than 200 households.

If you need assistance or would like to get involved in Northern Illinois Food Bank's mission, visit [www.SolveHungerToday.org](http://www.SolveHungerToday.org).

### **About United Way of Kankakee and Iroquois Counties**

For 80 years, United Way of Kankakee and Iroquois Counties has mobilized caring people to invest in communities where resources are needed most. United Way brings direct service providers, the business and philanthropic communities, and local institutions together to tackle some of the biggest issues affecting our region. United Way is a 501c3 nonprofit organization, governed by a local volunteer board of directors. For more information, visit [myunitedway.org](http://myunitedway.org).

**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, Lake Forest, Rockford and Joliet. Find out how you can get help, volunteer, donate, or get involved at [www.SolveHungerToday.org](http://www.SolveHungerToday.org), or follow us on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and LinkedIn.

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