



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Northern Illinois Food Bank Receives Grant from the Stateline Community Foundation
Support Enables Continued Food Distributions at School-Based Pantry in South Beloit

(GENEVA, IL – March 9, 2023) – [Northern Illinois Food Bank](#) is pleased to announce that we are receiving \$1,500 from The [Stateline Community Foundation's](#) Community Impact Grant Program. These funds will be used to support the [SOBO Food Pantry](#) at Blackhawk Elementary School in South Beloit School District 320.



SOBO Food Pantry is open bi-weekly during the school year and is accessible to the entire South Beloit community, serving an average of 80 households each month since September 2022. Neighbors receive a selection of foods including cereals, milk, eggs, cheese, fresh produce, meats, pasta, rice, soups and healthy canned meals, snacks and personal care items. In November and December, the pantry also distributes turkeys and hams, along with ingredients for families to enjoy holiday meals.

“These events are amazing because we have many volunteers from our community and school district come together to help, as these pantries are always busy for us,” says Rachel Blomquist, one of six District 320 social workers who help manage the school pantry. “Being able to receive food from the pantry, at no charge, empowers our neighbors to be able to meet their families’ dietary needs, reduce diet-related health risks, and direct limited resources to other essential living expenses, such as housing, transportation and healthcare.”

“Our neighbors continue to share with us that they love the atmosphere. We have had families share with us that they are so very appreciative of our pantry due to struggling with finances and the cost of living,” says Blomquist. Our pantry continues to be a success and is able to support not only our school district families but also our community members who may be in need.”

School-Based Food Pantries provide access to food for families in a familiar and accessible location, serving those who may be unable to visit another local food pantry, or where other food assistance resources may be limited. SOBO Food Pantry helps fill the gap in their community, ensuring families experiencing food insecurity have consistent access to the nutritious food and resources they need to thrive.



ABOUT STATELINE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

The Stateline Community Foundation is proud to stand as the region's leading resource for information about charitable giving and community needs. Since our inception in 1986, The Stateline Community Foundation has helped public-spirited citizens find ways to address community problems. The funds we manage now number in the millions. Through them, our donors support numerous organizations and serve a variety of extraordinary causes. Our donors and funds all share a common purpose: to make the Wisconsin, Illinois Stateline region a better place to live, work and play. The Stateline Community Foundation awards grants annually through a competitive application and review process. For more information, visit <https://statelinecf.org>.

ABOUT NORTHERN ILLINOIS FOOD BANK

Northern Illinois Food Bank's mission is to provide nutritious food and resources for our neighbors, with dignity, equity and convenience through partnerships and innovation with a vision of everyone in Northern Illinois having the food they need to thrive. Since 1983, we have been committed to advocating for and with our neighbors by telling their stories and engaging a diverse community of supporters, who unite in giving their time, donating food and contributing funds to improve food access and increase food security for neighbors across our 13-county service area. Through the collaboration among more than 900 network members, dedicated staff, volunteers, and food and fund donors, we distribute 250,000 meals each day, providing nutritious food to over 450,000 neighbors every month. Our distribution centers are located in Geneva, Lake Forest, Rockford and Joliet. For more information about the Food Bank's initiatives, or to learn how you can get help, volunteer, donate or get involved, please visit SolveHungerToday.org, or follow us on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and LinkedIn.

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