



**Northern Illinois Food Bank Receives Grant from Bayer Fund**  
*Funding to support innovative online food pantry, My Pantry Express*

Geneva, IL (June 19, 2023) – [Northern Illinois Food Bank](#) announced today it received a grant from Bayer Fund, a philanthropic arm of Bayer in the U.S. This grant will be used towards building a better future by supporting Northern Illinois Food Bank’s [My Pantry Express](#) program.

My Pantry Express is an innovative online food pantry program that alleviates the stigma of having to ask for help, by providing an anonymous, normalized grocery order. Bayer Fund is a long-standing supporter of Northern Illinois Food Bank and a funder of My Pantry Express since it began in 2019.

“Funds from this grant will help us continue to be a resource to neighbors experiencing food insecurity,” said Courtney Oakes, Senior Program Manager at Northern Illinois Food Bank. “In our mutual goal to see the communities we serve thrive, this grant from Bayer Fund will support our organization by allowing us to continue to provide consistent access to nutritious food.”

“Through Bayer Fund’s giving, we’re enabling and strengthening organizations that are working to make real, sustainable impacts in their local communities across the United States,” said Al Mitchell, President of Bayer Fund. “Programs like My Pantry Express help combat the critical issue of food insecurity, and we’re proud to play a role with helping even more people in our community have access to healthy, nutritious food.”

In 2022, Bayer Fund awarded more than \$13.4 million to over 2,700 charitable and nonprofit organizations to help address essential needs in Food and Nutrition, STEM Education and Health & Wellness. Since 2017, nonprofit organizations across the U.S. have received nearly \$90 million.

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**ABOUT NORTHERN ILLINOIS FOOD BANK**

For the past 40 years, Northern Illinois Food Bank has been dedicated to solving hunger and empowering neighbors. 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

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**About Bayer Fund**

Bayer Fund, a philanthropic arm of Bayer in the U.S., is a nonprofit organization dedicated to strengthening the communities where Bayer customers and employees live and work by providing funding for food and nutrition, education, and health and wellness projects. For more Information visit <https://www.fund.bayer.us>.

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