

MEDIA ALERT



Northern Illinois Food Bank Hosts Free Grocery Distribution for 1,000 Households on Sat. 3/9 in Elgin

Volunteers will distribute food in a drive-thru model - first come, first served, while supplies last

No one should have to choose between paying bills and feeding their family. However, USDA reports that food insecurity is at the highest level since 2014. [Northern Illinois Food Bank's](#) network of 900 food pantries, soup kitchens, and feeding programs is serving on average 560K neighbors every month. This is 85k more than last year, and double pre-pandemic. "We believe the increase in neighbors coming to us is due to inflation, pandemic-era benefits ending, rising cost of food, and increased awareness of the Food Bank and our network," said Maeven Sipes, Chief Philanthropy Officer.

To help neighbors get the nutritious food they need to thrive, Northern Illinois Food Bank will be hosting a Pop-up Mobile Market at Elgin Community College on Saturday, March 9th, 9am-11am. Two semi-truckloads of food will be unloaded and distributed by 70 local volunteers.

Everyone who needs groceries is welcome. No ID, proof of income, or referral is needed. Food is distributed in a drive-thru model, first come, first served, while supplies last.

What: Northern Illinois Food Bank Hosts Pop-Up Mobile Market at Elgin Community College

When: Saturday, March 9, 2024

- 8:30 a.m. Volunteers Arrive
- 9 a.m. – 11 a.m. Free Grocery Distribution starts in drive-thru model (cars start lining up early.)

Where: Elgin Community College, 1700 Spartan Drive, Elgin, IL 60123

Visuals:

- Two Semi-truckloads of free groceries distributed to 1,000 households.

- Multiple distribution stations – over 70 volunteers distributing food.

Interview Opportunities:

- Neighbors receiving groceries.
- Volunteers
- Mike Keane, Director of Programs, Northern Illinois Food Bank

For a list of upcoming mobile markets, to donate, volunteer or get groceries, visit: [SolveHungerToday.org](https://www.solvehunger.org) and follow us on [Facebook](#).

Photos courtesy of Northern Illinois Food Bank:

<https://jmp.sh/v/E7SqPMFDkcTnT2DIQJgW>

<https://jmp.sh/v/Rm9DFC1c8txFiT6FppSr>

<https://jmp.sh/v/GPg2UFvfP9SITF9pmONb>

What is a Pop-up Mobile Market?

A Pop-up Mobile Market is a free grocery distribution set-up in a community for short period of time to help neighbors get the food they need to thrive. Pop-up Mobile Markets typically last two hours and provide individuals with common grocery items such as meat, produce, non-perishable food and other products. Volunteers assist in distributing food. The Food Bank launched this distribution model to offer an additional distribution point in high need communities during the COVID-19 pandemic.