



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Northern Illinois Food Bank's 12th Annual "A Taste That Matters" Raised \$446,500 for Hunger Relief

Over 600 Guests Enjoyed an Evening Filled with Fun, Food, and Auction

Geneva, IL (June 24, 2024) – Northern Illinois Food Bank is thrilled to announce the 12th annual "A Taste That Matters" event, presented by Jewel-Osco, raised more than \$446,500 which translates into over \$3.5 million in essential resources for neighbors facing hunger.

"A Taste That Matters" is one of the Food Bank's flagship fundraisers, held this year at Drury Lane Theatre and Events in Oakbrook Terrace, IL. More than 600 attendees enjoyed an extensive silent auction, open bar, and food tastings from dozens of local chefs and vendors.

The evening featured remarks from Julie Yurko, President and CEO of Northern Illinois Food Bank; Mike Withers, President of Jewel-Osco; and Tom Hong, Retail Relations Specialist at Northern Illinois Food Bank.

"Due to inflation and the rising cost of food, we are seeing more neighbors reaching out for help. We are doing everything possible to meet the demand but cannot do it alone. We are grateful for the generous support of our event sponsors, tasting partners, and guests. Together we can make a difference in the lives of our neighbors so they can thrive," said Maeven Sipes, Chief Philanthropy Officer at Northern Illinois Food Bank.

Event sponsorships included Presenting Sponsor Jewel-Osco, Hunger Champion Sponsors Chilay Corp., PepsiCo, and Scooter Bay Sales, and Hunger Leader Sponsor Mondelez International.

View event photos here: <https://flic.kr/s/aHBqjBsLRx>. For more information about how to get involved, visit SolveHungerToday.org.

ABOUT NORTHERN ILLINOIS FOOD BANK

For over 40 years, Northern Illinois Food Bank has been dedicated to solving hunger and empowering neighbors. Our vision at [Northern Illinois Food Bank](https://NorthernIllinoisFoodBank.org) 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 in Geneva, Lake Forest, 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](#).