



****Press Conference on Thurs., Oct. 17th at 11:00 a.m., arrival 10:45 a.m. ****

Media Advisory

Northern Illinois Food Bank Holds Press Conference to Address Active Duty Military Hunger with Elected Officials in North Chicago

Free food distribution for 150 military families and veterans will follow remarks from elected officials

GENEVA, IL –On Thursday, October 17th, [Northern Illinois Food Bank](#) and elected officials will hold a press conference and mobile food distribution for military families and veterans, sponsored by RTX at Midwest Veterans Closet, 2323 Green Bay Rd. North Chicago.

Elected officials will address the issue of military hunger, highlighting barriers that prevent active military families from accessing food benefits like SNAP, advocating for federal funding, and proposing legislative changes to address these challenges.

Attendees include Congressman Brad Schnieder, State Senator Julie Morrison, State Representative Rita Mayfield, County Board Chair Sandy Hart, State Senator Bob Morgan, and representatives from Northern Illinois Food Bank, and Midwest Veterans Closet. Volunteers from Great Lake Naval Base and students from New Trier High School will be assisting at the mobile food distribution.

Topics to be addressed:

- State of military hunger and policy barriers that prevent service members and their families from accessing food assistance.
- Acknowledgment of key supporters of Northern Illinois Food Bank’s military mobile markets.
- Proposed changes to legislation including expanding SNAP eligibility by passing the bipartisan Military Family Nutrition Access Act sponsored by **Sens. Tammy Duckworth, D-Ill.**, and Lisa Murkowski, R-Alaska. Lawmakers could include this bill as part of the **next farm bill** or pass it as stand-alone legislation. This bill will help more service members access SNAP benefits by excluding the Basic Allowance for Housing from the gross income calculation for SNAP eligibility.
- How to get involved, volunteer, or donate

When: Thursday, October 17, 2024

Where: Midwest Veterans Closet 2323 Green Bay Road, North Chicago, IL 60064

Schedule of Events:

10:45 a.m. Volunteers and attendees arrive, Northern Illinois Food Bank food truck arrives, volunteers unload food.

11:00 a.m. Press Conference starts

11:30 a.m. Press Conference concludes, interview opportunities with elected officials and volunteers

12:00 p.m.-1:30 p.m. – Mobile food distribution to active military families and veterans.

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