



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 – February 26, 2025) – [Northern Illinois Food Bank](#) is pleased to announce that we are receiving \$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 Panty runs during the nine-month school year and is open to the entire South Beloit community. SOBO has served an average of 280 individuals monthly since September 2024. Neighbors visiting the pantry receive a variety of nutritious foods, which can include cereal, milk, eggs, cheese, fresh produce, meats, pasta, rice, soups and healthy canned meals, snacks and personal care items.

"Our SOBO food pantry is open once a month from 4pm until 6pm. We continue to see a need for our school-based food pantry as we continue to increase the number of individuals and families coming each time. We not only serve our students and families from South Beloit School District but also from our community and we have amazing staff who enjoy helping at our pantry."
– Rachel Blomquist, Social Worker and SOBO Food Pantry Manager, South Beloit District 320.

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, empowering neighbors with access to nutritious groceries.

"We know food insecurity can have devastating effects on a child's ability to learn and grow. Northern Illinois Food Bank is truly grateful for the grant funds from Stateline Community Foundation and for their commitment in the fight against hunger." – Randi Chambers, Development Officer, Corporate & Foundation Giving, Northern Illinois Food Bank.

Together, with the generous support of our community, we are ensuring that our neighbors across Northern Illinois can continue to access the nutritious food and resources they need to thrive.

ABOUT STATELINE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Since 1986 Stateline Community Foundation has strengthened the community by pairing the resources of those who want to give with organizations doing excellent work in the Stateline Area – serving Southern Rock (WI) and Northern Winnebago (IL) counties in the communities of Beloit, Clinton, Orfordville, South Beloit, Rockton, and Roscoe. Stateline Community Foundation is dedicated to identifying and responding to community needs through strategic partnerships, informed grantmaking, and inspired philanthropy. We manage nearly 200 funds, each created by donors to meet their charitable goals. Every year a portion of each fund supports a broad range of local agencies and interests. 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, with the support of our community, we have worked diligently to improve nutritious food access and increase food security for neighbors across 13 counties. Through the collaboration among more than 900 network members, dedicated staff, volunteers, and food and fund donors, we distribute over 90 million meals annually and currently serve 570,000 neighbors each 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 www.SolveHungerToday.org, or follow us on Facebook, X, Instagram and LinkedIn.