



Northern Illinois Food Bank Announces 2026 Signature Events

Proceeds will benefit hunger relief efforts in 13 counties

Geneva, IL (January 23, 2026) – [Northern Illinois Food Bank](#) unveils its five signature fundraising events taking place in 2026. These annual events play a vital role in raising funds and awareness for the organization’s mission to provide nutritious food and resources to neighbors in need. Each event offers a unique opportunity to engage with the community, enjoy meaningful experiences, and make a difference in the fight against hunger.

“When our community comes together, real change happens,” said Julie Yurko, President and CEO of Northern Illinois Food Bank. “As more families face food insecurity, these events provide critical support to help us meet the growing need. “We invite our neighbors, donors, and local businesses to join us in these efforts. Together, we can solve hunger.”

Smash Hunger Classic Pickleball Tournament

Date: Sunday, February 1 at The Picklr, Wheaton, 191 Rice Lake Square, Wheaton, IL 60189

Time: Recreational (Noon-2:00 pm) and Competitive (10:00 am-Noon)

Website: www.solvehungertoday.org/pickleball

This indoor doubles pickleball tournament features both competitive and recreational divisions, creating a fun, high-energy experience for players of all skill levels while supporting hunger relief across Northern Illinois.

A Cup of Hope, Presented by Cultivate Power

Date: Sunday, March 1 at Abbington Banquets, 3S002 Route 53, Glen Ellyn, IL 60137

Time: 1:30pm-4pm

Website: www.solvehungertoday.org/cup

An elegant afternoon tea hosted by Northern Illinois Food Bank's Executive Women's Council, A Cup of Hope brings together community leaders and supporters to raise awareness and funds to help solve hunger. The event will be emceed by ABC7 Chicago news anchor Judy Hsu and will feature a live performance by the Lake Forest Civic Orchestra.

Fight Hunger 10K, 5K & 1-Mile, Presented by ALDI

Date: Saturday, May 2 at Cantigny Park, 1S151 Winfield Road, Wheaton, IL 60189

Time: 8:30am-12pm

Website: www.solvehungertoday.org/fighthunger

This fun-filled event features three race routes and a vibrant festival atmosphere for the whole family. Highlights include a VIP pavilion and exclusive perks for top fundraisers, a Kid's Zone with the Windy City Mobile Gaming Truck, face painting, balloon artists, and other family-friendly activities, plus food trucks from across the area and sponsor giveaways. All funds raised will be matched by US. Foods.

A Taste That Matters, Presented by Jewel-Osco

Date: Wednesday, May 20 at Drury Lane, 100 Drury Lane, Oakbrook Terrace, IL 60181

Time: 6pm-8:30pm

Website: www.solvehungertoday.org/taste

This premier culinary event brings together local restaurants and chefs for an evening of delicious dining, all in support of hunger relief across Northern Illinois. Sponsorships and restaurant participation are currently open.

Hunger Scramble Golf Outing and Smash Hunger Classic Pickleball Tournament, Presented Old Second National Bank

Date: Monday, August 17 at White Eagle Golf Club, 3400 Club Drive Naperville, IL 60564

Time: 10am-4pm

Website: www.solvehungertoday.org/golf

Participants will enjoy a round of golf or a match on the pickleball courts alongside colleagues, customers, partners, and friends, with food and beverages, interactive games, and a raffle and silent auction set against the backdrop of a beautiful course and courts.

To learn more or get involved, visit www.solvehungertoday.org/events.

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