



Feeding People. Changing Lives.

# Food for Thought

Quarterly Newsletter • January 2015

## Your Partnership Moving Us Forward in 2015

Channel One Regional Food Bank is fortunate to have you, our partners, helping us move forward in the fight against hunger. In our over 30 years of serving those in need of assistance, you have helped us grow from serving 27 senior citizens our first year to over 100,000 individuals today. Because of you, thousands upon thousands of our neighbors have been able to triumph over hunger. In 2014 alone, our partnerships accomplished great things in our region. **Here are a few of the highlights:**

- Our **Mobile Pantry Program** increased food distribution by 26%.
- The **Supplemental Food Shelf** increased our service to the community by 22%.
- The **Volunteer Program** increased by 13%, with 2,355 volunteers now serving at Channel One!
- **Channel One Regional Food Bank** distributed a record 9.3 million pounds of food throughout our region.
- Channel One distributed an additional 5,652 pounds of food through **school pantries** last fiscal year versus the previous fiscal year - an increase of 549%!
- Channel One increased our **fresh produce** distribution by 15% to 1,679,509 pounds of fresh produce!
- Channel One is working to complete a warehouse expansion project that gives us over **20,000 more square feet** of space to fight hunger in the future.

Together, we continue to make great progress in the fight against hunger. Your partnership with Channel One accomplished all of this and more in 2014. Think of how many more heights we can reach together in 2015!

As we enter a new year, we are reaching out to you, our partners, to help us continue to feed people in need. **Your support is vital to the work we do.** Channel One appreciates your continued partnership with our mission and is ready to meet the challenges that lie ahead in 2015 with you by our side.



Channel One's Glean Team Volunteers helping collect fresh produce for our neighbors in need!



A young mom shops at the Supplemental Food Shelf with her child. Over 40% of the clients served at Channel One are children.



The work of Channel One Regional Food Bank is a puzzle; there are many pieces and partners that come together to make our hunger relief work complete. Over the past year, partnerships were crucial in accomplishing so many milestones...helping to feed over 100,000 people in our service area, distributing over 1,500 Commodity Supplemental Food Boxes in 13 counties each month, supporting backpack programs in 14 communities and helping 100 families supplement their grocery budgets by growing their own produce. From grade school kids organizing a food drive to senators lobbying for hunger reform, all of our partners make a difference. Thank **you** for your partnership. We are working hard to end hunger in Southeast Minnesota and Western Wisconsin, and we cannot do it without you. Throughout the pages of this newsletter, you will see highlights from our work with valued partners. As we embark on a new year, I am thrilled about the possibilities that lie ahead. Working in partnership, we can accomplish much more than we could on our own.

**Together we are feeding people and changing lives! Thank you for your support!**

*Jennifer Woodford*

Jennifer Woodford, Executive Director

## Get Ready for the Minnesota FoodShare March Campaign!

**This year's Minnesota FoodShare March Campaign is just around the corner!** Every March, the community comes together to collect food and funds to keep the shelves at the Channel One Supplemental Food Shelf stocked. **This is the largest food and fund drive Channel One hosts each year.**

**Our goal is to raise 450,000 pounds of food or dollars throughout the month of March.** We need your help to achieve this goal and keep our shelves stocked! Start planning your food or dollar collection at your workplace, faith organization, school or anywhere else you can get people to pitch in and help us meet our goal!

**Head to our website at [www.helpingfeedpeople.org](http://www.helpingfeedpeople.org) to register and order free resources to help with your 2015 March Food Drive!**



Support 300 food shelves across the state by contributing to the Minnesota FoodShare March Campaign.  
[gmcc.org/minnesotafoodshare](http://gmcc.org/minnesotafoodshare)

Minnesota FoodShare is a program of the Greater Minneapolis Council of Churches.

Thank you to our corporate sponsors and to our March Campaign Honorary Chair, Andrew Zimmern, host of Bizarre Foods on the Travel Channel.



## Channel One Receives Grants and Gifts

Channel One is extremely grateful for all of the generous friends and donors we have! Every dollar given to Channel One is very valuable and allows Channel One to distribute enough food for five meals!

- **Western Digital Foundation** awarded Channel One a grant for our Backpack Program that amounts to feeding 118 kids on the weekends for an entire school year!
- Channel One was able to purchase necessary safety barriers for our repack room thanks to the generosity of a grant from **Congregational Church United Church of Christ!**
- Channel One was awarded an **Operation Round-Up Grant from People's Energy Cooperative** to purchase food for our Backpack Program, which amounts to feeding 70 kids on the weekends for an entire school year!
- **A Community Development Block Grant** was awarded to Channel One to install new flooring in our food shelf this spring.
- **C.R. Bard Foundation, Inc.** generously granted enough funds to our Backpack Program to feed 52 kids on the weekends and holiday breaks for the entire school year!
- **Treasure Island** donated **260 turkeys** to Channel One in November to help feed people in need.
- **Wehrenberg Theatre's CANS Film Festival** on December 6th resulted in **over 7,800 pounds of food donations** for our community members in need.
- Many friends generously donated on **Give to the Max Day!** Total donations equal enough to distribute an amount of food equal to **39,250 meals** to those in need!
- **IBM** generously donated funds to Channel One to purchase food for the Backpack Program. Then IBM volunteers packed thousands of bags full of food to distribute! **Their donation equaled enough to feed 139 children for an entire school year.**



IBM volunteers packing food for the Backpack Program



People's Energy Cooperative Operation Round-Up Grant

## Alliant Energy Foundation Golf Classic

**This year's Alliant Energy Foundation's 8th Annual Drive Out Hunger Golf Classic raised \$345,000 for nine Feeding America member food banks in Wisconsin, Iowa, Minnesota and Illinois.** Since its inception in 2007, the Drive Out Hunger Golf Classic has raised more than \$1.8 million and provided more than 7 million meals throughout the nine Feeding America Food Banks.

"Alliant Energy is pleased to sponsor this annual event, and we thank our business partners for their generous support in making this event possible," said Patricia Kampling, Alliant Energy Chairman, President and CEO. "We believe it's important to put our efforts into raising funds that directly affect the everyday lives of those in need. We remain committed to helping improve the quality of life in the communities we serve, and I cannot think of a more worthy cause than the food banks throughout our service territory."

**Channel One is very grateful to have Alliant Energy as our partner in the fight against hunger!**





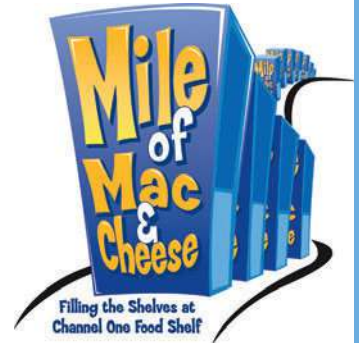
## Mile of Mac & Cheese

This February Channel One has set a “lengthy” goal - to collect a mile of Mac & Cheese! A Rochester WinterFest XIII event, Mile of Mac & Cheese is a partnership between Channel One Regional Food Bank, Noodles & Company, and Hy-Vee to collect food and raise awareness about the continued need for support to feed those struggling in our community.

To support this effort, stop by either Rochester Noodles & Company location and receive a FREE regular size bowl of Wisconsin Mac-N-Cheese with each donation of 5 boxes of Mac & Cheese on February 6th, 7th and 8th. You can also support Mile of Mac & Cheese buying purchasing Mac & Cheese at Hy-Vee. All three Hy-Vee locations will be collection sites for Mile of Mac & Cheese from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. on February 7th and 8th.

You can also support this event by volunteering to assist with collections at Hy-Vee or hosting a collection site at your business, faith community or school. **If you would like to volunteer or host a collection site, please contact Karen Doering, karendoering@channel-one.org or 507-424-1705.**

February 6, 7, & 8



Help us reach our lengthy goal of 9,000 boxes donated!

## 2014 Student Food Drive

We had a fun and successful 2014 Student Food Drive! We are very impressed with the hard work of the students and faculty involved in this annual food drive. **Together, the participating schools collected 36,341 pounds of food and \$3,667 dollars (which equals enough food for 83,387 meals)!** Channel One also received an additional generous donation of 17,869 pounds of food from Faribault Foods in recognition of the students' efforts. **This equals a total of 54,210 pounds of food collected!**

### 2014 Student Food Drive Awards

#### Large School

- First Place: **Kasson Mantorville**
- Second Place: **John Marshall**
- Third Place: **Stewartville**

#### Small School

- First Place: **Spring Grove**
- Second Place: **Leroy-Ostrander**
- Third Place: **Grand Meadow**

#### School Spirit

- First Place: **Triton**
- Second Place: **ALC**

**Most Pounds Raised:** Spring Grove

**Most Money Raised:** Spring Grove



2014 Student Food Drive Awards Ceremony

**Thank you to Faribault Foods and to all schools and students who participated!!**



## Channel One: Continuing the Fight Against Hunger

As we begin another year of fighting hunger in Southeast Minnesota and Western Wisconsin, we wanted to take a moment to share with you, our partners, more information about where and how we are serving our neighbors in need.

- **Channel One Regional Food Bank:** In order to feed our region's hungry, Channel One Regional Food Bank takes in millions of pounds of surplus food from the food industry. That food is then distributed through our network of nearly 200 agencies and programs, including food shelves, soup kitchens, group homes and shelters. These member agencies and programs are located throughout our region, which includes the following counties: Faribault, Waseca, Rice, Goodhue, Wabasha, Steele, Dodge, Olmsted, Freeborn, Mower, Fillmore, Winona, Houston and La Crosse County in Wisconsin. **We currently serve over 100,000 individuals throughout our region and distributed nearly 9.3 million pounds of food last fiscal year.**

### How Do We Serve Our Neighbors in Need?

Channel One Regional Food Bank has several hunger relief programs we execute to serve the many different needs of our clients. These programs are:

- **Channel One Supplemental Food Shelf:** The Channel One Food Shelf provides a five day supply of food once per month to eligible residents of Olmsted County. Channel One also operates several satellite food shelves throughout Olmsted County. Satellite food shelves serve people in Byron, Oronoco, Northwest Rochester, Northeast Rochester, Southeast Rochester and downtown Rochester through a partnership with The Salvation Army. **We are serving an average of 3,700 households per month.**
- **Green Garden Program:** With the generous sharing of several acres at Rochester Covenant Church and Community Presbyterian Church in Rochester, Channel One offers the Green Garden program to families who wish to supplement their food budgets with fresh produce that is grown in the garden. **We have an average of 100 families utilizing the program.**
- **Mobile Pantry Program:** We currently distribute food to six sites in three different counties one time per month. The locations of the Mobile Food Pantry sites are based upon an increased need for food in these locations and/or limited access to food shelves. **Last fiscal year, Channel One distributed 445,935 pounds of food to hungry people through the Mobile Food Pantry.**
- **Nutrition Assistance Program for Seniors:** Through the Commodity Supplemental Food Programs or NAPS, Channel One provides an approximately 35-pound box of free food each month to seniors who meet income guidelines. The program is funded by the United States Department of Agriculture. **Last fiscal year, we served 1,761 seniors through this program.**
- **Backpack Program:** The Backpack Program serves 21 schools – 17 elementary schools and 4 middle schools—and over 1,200 students. Each week during the school year, Channel One partner organizations pick-up child-friendly food from Channel One and pack it into non-descript backpacks that are assigned by number to a child at their partner school. The organizations then deliver the backpacks to the school where school staff distribute them on Friday as kids head home for the weekend. On Monday, the backpacks return empty to school, where the organizations pick them up and the process starts all over again. Channel One is committed to providing the food to partner organizations serving Olmsted County **for the backpacks free of charge. Channel One has also helped start Backpack Programs in 20 other locations throughout our service area.**

## Upcoming Events

- **Mile of Mac & Cheese** - Come to any Rochester Hy-Vee store on February 6th, 7th and 8th and donate Mac & Cheese to help us reach our goal of collecting 9,000 boxes of Mac & Cheese!
- **Minnesota FoodShare March Campaign** - Check the Channel One website, Facebook page and Spring Newsletter for information about the campaign! March is one of the only times in the year when we can use your support to leverage additional donations through the campaign.
- **Feinstein Challenge** - For the 18th year, Rhode Island philanthropist Alan Shawn Feinstein will divide \$1 million among hunger relief agencies nationwide. The more donations we receive during March and April, the greater our share of the Feinstein Challenge money!
- **Letter Carriers Food Drive** - **On Saturday, May 9th**, the Letter Carriers will conduct their 23rd Annual Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive. Postal customers are encouraged to put food by their mailboxes in the morning, and your letter carrier will take it to the post office where Channel One will collect it.



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