



POST OFFICE BOX 7509  
1001 EAST LAKE STREET, MINNEAPOLIS MN 55407-0509  
TELEPHONE: 612-721-8687 FAX: 612-722-8669  
ONLINE: GMCC.ORG/FOODSHARE

**For release February 27, 2009**

Contact: Sue Kainz, 612-721-8687 x326 Home: 651-459-8442

Secondary contact: Julie Schanzenbach Canham, 612-721-8687 x304 Home: 952-960-0913

**LARGEST FOOD DRIVE IN THE STATE KICKS OFF MARCH 1**  
**Minnesota FoodShare's goal is 10 million combined pounds and dollars.**  
**Food shelf usage has almost doubled since 2000.**

**MINNEAPOLIS, MN --** Minnesota FoodShare announces the start of its annual March Campaign: the largest food drive in the state. The March Campaign is a unique event that unites Minnesota corporations, faith communities, schools, and civic groups for one month to focus on the issues of hunger and raise cash and food donations for the state's food shelves.

The March Campaign is vital. In 2008, there were more than 2 million food shelf visits in Minnesota and 50 million pounds of food distributed to families in need. The 2008 March Campaign raised 26 million pounds of food, more than half of the annual distribution. This year the goal is to raise 10 million pounds and dollars combined, the campaign's largest goal in its 27 year history.

"We raised our goal to address the rising demand at food shelves statewide," says Sue Kainz, March Campaign coordinator, "The recession and the related job losses are creating a perfect storm at Minnesota food shelves, the need is growing exponentially and many who used to donate are now in need of help."

Despite the bleak situation, Kainz remains hopeful, noting that if every Minnesotan shared just two dollars with their local food shelf during March they would exceed the goal of 10 million.

Cash can be donated to Minnesota FoodShare or to local food shelves across the state. Food can be donated to the local food shelves or taken to a U.S. Bank near you.

For information about the March Campaign, please contact your local food shelf or visit our website: [www.gmcc.org/foodshare/marchcampaign](http://www.gmcc.org/foodshare/marchcampaign). To find your local food shelf, please click on "find a food shelf" or contact United Way's 211 Information line. The Minnesota FoodShare March Campaign is sponsored by: Medtronic, Old Home Foods, Minnesota Timberwolves, U.S. Bank, and WCCO Radio.

-30-

A program of the  
greater minneapolis | council of churches

UNITING PEOPLE OF FAITH—SERVING PEOPLE IN NEED

Minnesota FoodShare is co-sponsored by the MN Rabbinical Association, Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis, Jewish Community Relations Council of MN and the Dakotas, MN Catholic Conference, MN Council of Churches, and the St. Paul Area Council of Churches.