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**MINNESOTA FOODSHARE ANNOUNCES RECORD-BREAKING DONATION  
FROM MEDTRONIC EMPLOYEES, MEDTRONIC FOUNDATION**

*Donation jumpstarts Minnesota FoodShare's March Campaign to address the critical needs of  
300 food shelves across Minnesota*

**MINNEAPOLIS – March 11, 2010** – Minnesota FoodShare today announced a **record-breaking cash donation of \$485,000** from Medtronic's employee drive to help provide food and restock 300 food shelves across Minnesota. The unprecedented donation, exceeding Medtronic's 2009 record-setting contribution of \$450,000, translates into more than **2 million meals** for hungry Minnesota families at a time when the growing demand for food throughout the state is sobering. Right now nearly 14 percent of Minnesota households do not have enough money to buy food.

In February, the Medtronic Foundation announced that it would match and double every donation made to the food shelf by Medtronic employees. For example, a \$50 donation from a Medtronic employee would result in a \$150 gift to Minnesota FoodShare. More than 2,100 Medtronic employees made pledges this year, helping food shelves purchase nearly 3 million pounds of food.

"This gift from Medtronic employees, with matching contributions from the Medtronic Foundation, is the largest employee and corporate cash donation in the history of Minnesota FoodShare," said Barbara Thell, director of Minnesota FoodShare.

"Medtronic employees saw the need and responded to that need. It is our hope that other companies can respond in the same way and contribute to Minnesota FoodShare's March Campaign to help meet the overwhelming demand of families in Minnesota who need assistance putting food on the table."

Each March, Minnesota FoodShare kicks off the largest food drive in the state which restocks more than 300 food shelves across Minnesota. The need continues to be great.

In 2009, there were about 3 million food shelf visits statewide; 56 percent were families with children. Child visits to food shelves in Minnesota increased from 191,756 in the first quarter of 2008 to 236,652 in the same period in 2009.

The March Campaign recruits thousands of congregations, corporations, schools and civic groups to run local food and fund drives to help support the effort. Half of all the groceries distributed at Minnesota food shelves each year are generated by the Minnesota FoodShare's March Campaign.

To get involved, consider making a cash donation to Minnesota FoodShare's March Campaign. Visit their website to find a food shelf near you:

<http://www.mnfoodshare.gmcc.org>. All of the money raised goes directly towards purchasing food for Minnesota food shelves.

### **About Minnesota FoodShare**

Minnesota FoodShare, a program of the Greater Minneapolis Council of Churches, is an advocate in the effort to feed Minnesota families living in poverty. The program recruits people statewide to raise food and funds annually for food shelves in the state of Minnesota. For more information about Minnesota FoodShare visit:

[www.mnfoodshare.gmcc.org](http://www.mnfoodshare.gmcc.org).

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