

# NEWS BRIEF



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## GREAT PLAINS FOOD BANK RECEIVES \$3,300 GRANT FROM THE WOMEN'S FUND TO ADDRESS CHILDHOOD HUNGER

*FARGO, ND – (February 17, 2011)* The Great Plains Food Bank, a program of Lutheran Social Services of North Dakota, received a grant in the amount of \$3,300 from the Women's Fund – a component fund of the Fargo-Moorhead Area Foundation, to address childhood hunger through the Cass Clay Backpack Program.

The Cass Clay Backpack Program is designed to meet the needs of hungry children at times when other resources are not available, such as on weekends and school vacations. Support received from the Women's Fund will provide nearly 700 backpacks to children in need this school year. Each backpack is filled with child-friendly, nonperishable and easily consumed food for six meals plus snacks.

Hungry children are more likely to experience headaches, stomach aches, ear infections and colds. They suffer from iron deficiencies that affect their cognitive and physical development. The Cass Clay Backpack Program is an effective solution to childhood hunger. Children who participate in this program are more attentive in class and show improvement in attitude and behavior.

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**About Great Plains Food Bank:** *The Great Plains Food Bank strives for a hunger-free North Dakota and western Minnesota by recovering and distributing surplus food and grocery product, engaging in community partnerships, and advocating for social change. Each year the Great Plains Food Bank, through a statewide network of 270 charitable feeding programs in 95 communities, provides food to more than 66,000 low-income people facing hunger – nearly 40% being children and 13% seniors. In 2010, as the state's largest hunger-relief provider, the Great Plains Food Bank distributed a record 7.4 million pounds of food, valued at \$11.9 million. The [Great Plains Food Bank](#) is a program of Lutheran Social Services of North Dakota and member of Feeding America. Lutheran Social Services of North Dakota is a nonprofit social services agency serving one in nine North Dakotans annually from offices in five cities with 19 programs that strengthen individuals, families and communities.*