

NEWS BRIEF

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Great Plains Food Bank Recognizes Community Partners for Outstanding Efforts in Hunger Relief

March 29, 2011 – FARGO, ND - The Great Plains Food Bank, a program of Lutheran Social Services of North Dakota, honored four statewide partners with its 2010 Hunger Relief Champion Award, and named its first ever Agency of the Year recipient.

The 2010 Hunger Relief Champion awards were presented to Earl Pomeroy, Byron Dorgan, Jenni Munson and Walmart because of their extraordinary contributions and commitment to end hunger. These honorees were recognized for their steadfast work to ensure strong and effective federal nutrition programs, their commitment in tackling childhood hunger head on, and their invitation to customers, employees and other like minded community organizations to join them in feeding the more than 66,000 children, seniors and working families who sought food assistance last year alone from the Great Plains Food Bank and their partner network. "Their friendship, incredible support demonstrated in so many ways over the years, compassion for those we serve, and belief in the work that we do embodies the spirit of this award," says Steve Sellent, program director for the Great Plains Food Bank. "As we move closer to our vision of hunger free communities, we are honored to have these advocates leading the way."

The Great Plains Food Bank also named Belfield-Medora Food Pantry as their first ever Agency of the Year recipient. "This is the highest honor we offer one of our 269 hunger relief partner agencies," says Melissa Sobolik, director of member and client services. "Their dedicated volunteers run a top notch operation; they've increased their capacity, and expanded their service - ensuring no one in their community goes hungry." In 2010, Belfield-Medora Food Pantry distributed nearly 16,000 pounds of food to their hungry neighbors in need.

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About the 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. In 2010, the Great Plains Food Bank distributed a record 7.5 million pounds of food, valued at nearly \$12 million, touching the lives of more than 66,000 individuals – nearly 40% being children. As the state's largest hunger-relief provider, their partner network includes 269 charitable feeding programs operating in 96 communities. The [Great Plains Food Bank](#) is a program of Lutheran Social Services of North Dakota, a nonprofit social service agency serving one in nine North Dakotans annually from offices in five cities with 19 programs that strengthen individuals, families and communities.