

# News Release

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## **\$3,317 Raised in Bremer Bank's Annual "Taking Action to End Hunger" Campaign for the Great Plains Food Bank**

*Fargo, N.D. – August 8, 2011* – During its sixth annual "Taking Action to End Hunger" Campaign, Bremer Bank raised \$3,317 for the Great Plains Food Bank, a program of Lutheran Social Services of North Dakota - providing 31,766 meals to North Dakotans in need. In its overall campaign, Bremer Bank's \$50,000 matching gift was met and exceeded when donations jumped 65 percent, year-over-year. Donations were made during the month of June through a combination of online giving, as well as employee and client events. This year's campaign raised \$84,614 in donations – up from last year's final tally of \$51,133. A portion of this donation total will also go to the Great Plains Food Bank. In six years, the campaign has raised \$847,434 for food banks in the region.

"We are fortunate to have partners like Bremer Bank who are willing to address an important issue in our community," said Steve Sellent, director of the Great Plains Food Bank. "With the challenging economy, there is increased demand at our statewide network of food shelves, soup kitchens and emergency shelters, and Bremer's financial support will have a significant impact on our ability to meet that need."

This year, the campaign kicked-off with a flash mob video that triggered an additional \$10,000 donation from Bremer with \$1 donated every time the video was played, up to 10,000 views. The flash mob to end hunger video can be found at [www.youtube.com/bremerbanks](http://www.youtube.com/bremerbanks). In addition to monetary donations, Bremer employees also donated their time and energy in the form of volunteerism by stocking local food shelves and preparing food packages in various communities.

"Our employees really stepped up this year, getting behind this campaign and raising awareness to end hunger – including collecting more than 1,000 pounds of food for our local foodshelves," said Brian Hagen, president of Bremer Bank Fargo. "I would like to extend a big thank you to employees, clients, friends and family in Bremer Bank communities who supported this campaign."

**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 271 charitable feeding programs in 100 communities, provides food to more than 67,000 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 7.47 million pounds of food, valued at \$11.9 million. The [Great Plains Food Bank](http://www.greatplainsfoodbank.org) 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.

**About Bremer Financial Corporation**

Bremer Financial Corporation is a privately-held, \$7.9 billion regional financial services company jointly owned by its employees and the Otto Bremer Foundation (OBF). Founded in 1943 by Otto Bremer, the company is headquartered in St. Paul, Minnesota and provides a comprehensive range of banking, investment, trust and insurance products and services to nearly 100 locations in Minnesota, North Dakota and Wisconsin. OBF uses its share of dividends to distribute charitable grants to Bremer bank communities.

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