

News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Great Plains Food Bank to Coordinate the Collection of Food and Cleaning Supplies for People Affected by Minot Region Flooding

First truckload heading to the Minot region tomorrow morning

Fargo, ND – *June 23, 2011* – The Great Plains Food Bank, a program of Lutheran Social Services of North Dakota, will serve as the central collection point for people interested in donating nonperishable food, personal care, and cleaning supplies to help citizens of Minot and the surrounding region who have been affected by recent flooding. These products will be used by the Great Plains Food Bank on three flood - related fronts, providing assistance to those in need seeking help at shelters and through mobile feeding units, during clean-up efforts, and at food pantries and other charitable feeding programs that are expected to see increased demand due to the financial hardships experienced because of record breaking flood waters.

Starting this afternoon, individuals, families, businesses or churches wanting to assist are invited to drop off items at the Great Plains Food Bank statewide distribution center. These items will be then be sorted and prepared for distribution to the Minot region. The first truckload of snacks, shelf-stable meals and items for mass feeding is scheduled to arrive in Minot tomorrow morning and will feed those receiving immediate support at shelters and through mobile feeding units.

“Whether it’s a few items, or a few pallets, we know how passionately the Cass-Clay community responds to crisis,” says Steve Sellent, program director for the Great Plains Food Bank. “With the severity of this disaster, we know that a tremendous amount of resources will be needed in the Minot region in the days and weeks ahead. We want to offer our trucking, warehousing and distribution capabilities to make this community wide effort possible.”

The Great Plains Food Bank estimates that 15 or more semi-loads will be distributed to the Minot region, made possible through donations from Feeding America - the nation’s food bank network, other food banks in the region, food industry donors, and items collected from the community.

Once the immediate needs faced by citizens of the Minot region are met, the Great Plains Food Bank will work with Lutheran Disaster Response, another program of Lutheran Social Services of North Dakota, to secure and distribute the supplies necessary in the clean-up effort.

COMMUNITY FOOD DRIVE DROP OFF DETAILS:

Where: Great Plains Food Bank
1720 3rd Ave. N, Fargo
(701) 232-6219

When: Thursday, June 23 until 8:00pm
Friday, June 24 from 8:00am to 8:00pm
Saturday, June 25 from 8:00am to 8:00pm
Sunday, June 26 from 12:00 noon to 5:00pm
Then during regular business hours starting Monday, June 27

What: Assorted non-perishable food items, personal care and cleaning supplies, including:

- Shelf-stable microwavable entrees
- Soups, stews, chili
- Rice, instant potatoes
- Boxed meals
- Peanut butter, cereal, breakfast bars
- Tomato based products (i.e. spaghetti and BBQ sauce)
- Canned meat products
- Canned fruits and vegetables

To volunteer with the effort, call the Great Plains Food Bank at (701) 232-6219.

Additional food collection sites include the six Hornbacher's locations, all four Sunmart locations, both Cash Wise Foods locations and the three Walmart locations. Collection barrels will be available, and clearly marked at the front entrances through July.

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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 270 charitable feeding programs operating in 100 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; and a member of Feeding America, the nation's food bank network.