

# Proclamation



- Whereas: Hunger exists in communities even in the best of economies, and
- Whereas: Nearly half of hungry Minnesotans are children twelve years old and younger, and
- Whereas: The fastest growing groups of hungry Minnesotans are senior citizens, and
- Whereas: The creeping effects of hunger in the life of an individual or family can range from poor health and slowed recovery from injury and illness to poor performance at school and at work, and
- Whereas: The impact of this on lives and communities can be devastating, and
- Whereas: Food shelves in Minnesota distribute millions of pounds of food annually to ease the effects of hunger, and
- Whereas: Food shelf visits remain at record highs, increasing each year, and
- Whereas: The food shelf in Delano has also seen significant numbers of those in need, and
- Whereas: The Minnesota FoodShare March Campaign is responsible for acquiring more than half the food distributed annually through food shelves, and
- Whereas: The success of the Minnesota FoodShare March Campaign depends upon the participation of businesses, civic groups, schools, congregations and individuals in every community;

NOW THEREFORE,

We, \_\_\_\_\_, do hereby proclaim the month of March to be...

## Minnesota FoodShare Month

in March, and urge everyone in this community and in communities throughout Minnesota to donate food items and/or funding to the local food shelf during March to ensure that all of our neighbors will have food enough to share fully in the life of our community.



## 2010 Fact Sheet: Hunger Affects Everyone

*"It saddens me to think that there are children in America who are hungry every day of their lives. No one can live — and grow — without such a fundamental necessity as food. If we Americans reach out to our own communities, we could end this crisis."*

*~ Country singer Tim McGraw*

- In 2009, there were about 3 million food shelf visits statewide and 61 million pounds of food were distributed to Minnesota families by food shelves.
- From 2008 to 2009, there was a 25 percent increase in food shelf visits in Minnesota — the largest recorded increase in 28 years.
- 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.
- In 2009, almost 14 percent of Minnesota households did not have enough money to buy food.
- In the state of Minnesota in 2009, 13.8 percent of households with children struggled to purchase food.
- Hunger touches people of every age: 56 percent of food shelf visitors are families with children and 20 percent are seniors.
- More than 50 percent of adult food shelf visitors are employed and 65 percent make less than \$1,000 a month, not enough income to cover their basic needs.
- Of those who use Minnesota's food shelves, 47 percent of adults and 14 percent of children skip meals because there is not enough food at home.
- From 2000 to 2009, food shelf usage almost tripled — from more than 1 million visits to almost 3 million visits annually.

*Sources: The State of Hunger in Minnesota (2005): Hunger Solutions Minnesota/Wilder Research; Survey of Food Shelves (2006): Quarterly food shelf reports, (2008); Children's Defense Fund Minnesota, (2007); State of the States (2007): Food Research and Action Center (2009); Hunger Partners.*