

It's Time to Fight Back Against Hunger!

Spring is just around the corner, which means it's also time for the annual **Minnesota FoodShare March Campaign!** There are a staggering amount of our community members in need of food assistance and this campaign gives us the opportunity to stretch your dollars even further. **Also this year, Channel One has been given the amazing opportunity to participate in Otto Bremer Foundation's March Millions Campaign!** For every dollar given to Channel One on www.GiveMN.org during the month of March, Otto Bremer Foundation will donate a dollar for dollar match to our organization! **As Channel One is expanding in order to continue feeding all who seek our assistance, maximizing these opportunities is more crucial than ever.**

The Minnesota FoodShare March Campaign is a state-wide food and fund drive that Channel One participates in each year during the month of March. During this month-long effort, people all over the state participate in food and fund drives where they work, through service clubs, schools and places of worship. **All food and cash donations the Channel One Supplemental Food Shelf receives during the month of March stay in our local community to help feed people in need.** Every pound and dollar is important because, the more food and funds that Channel One collects during March, the greater our allocation from the Minnesota FoodShare statewide incentive fund.



Last fiscal year, your partnership helped Channel One distribute nearly 9.3 million pounds of food to over 100,000 individuals in need of food assistance. **Who are these individuals?** We are helping feed seniors, individuals with physical or mental-health disabilities, working families and individuals, children, people in times of crisis due to job loss, medical problems or personal disaster, and food shelves, programs and agencies in 14 counties. **The difference you are making through your partnership with Channel One is widespread and is changing thousands upon thousands of lives.**

To help meet the rising need in the Channel One Supplemental Food Shelf Program, our goal this year is \$225,000 and 225,000 pounds of food! Here are three ways you can help Channel One reach our goal:

- **Make a gift on www.GiveMN.org** and encourage others to do the same to help us maximize the dollar for dollar match from Otto Bremer Foundation!
- Host a **food and/or fund drive** or have your business or organization participate in **denim days**.
- Give an additional **gift of food** to Channel One in March.

Contact Karen at karendoering@channel-one.org or visit the Channel One website at www.helpingfeedpeople.org to find documents to help make your campaign a success!



March is perhaps the month each year when we count on our partnerships the most – and this year is no exception! Annually, Channel One participates in Minnesota FoodShare’s March Campaign, which encourages people to “Be The Hero, Fight Hunger.” The more food and fund donations we receive from our partners during March, the more funds we are awarded from the Minnesota FoodShare March Campaign. And this year we have a special opportunity from the Otto Bremer Foundation who will be matching funds dollar for dollar given to Channel One through GiveMN.org throughout March!

We see heroes in action in the fight against hunger each and every day – our supporters, member agencies, volunteers, donors, staff and clients who partner together to feed people and change lives. The late Pulitzer Prize winning author and activist Maya Angelou wrote, “I think a hero is any person really intent on making this a better place for all people.”

Thank you for your commitment to making the world a better place, for being our hero!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Jennifer Woodford'.

Jennifer Woodford, Executive Director

Otto Bremer Announces March Millions!

To celebrate its expansion into Southeastern Minnesota, Otto Bremer Foundation has announced their March Millions Campaign! **During this campaign, Otto Bremer Foundation will match dollar for dollar all donations up to \$100,000 made to Channel One on www.GiveMN.org throughout the entire month of March.**

That means every dollar you donate to Channel One on www.GiveMN.org for the entire month of March will double!

Please help Channel One take advantage of this opportunity to feed people in need by making a gift on www.GiveMN.org today! And don't stop there - Help us spread the word about the March Millions Campaign and be an advocate for our neighbors in need!

Your online donation during March Millions may also help us receive an additional donation of \$1,000! **How?** From March 1st through March 31st, every gift made on www.GiveMN.org to Channel One will be entered into a daily drawing for a \$1,000 Bremer Boost to be awarded to an organization in Southeastern Minnesota. That means 31 opportunities for you to help us receive an extra \$1,000! **And here's the really exciting part:** On March 31st, one donation will be randomly drawn from all March Millions donations throughout the month to receive a \$10,000 Bremer Boost prize grant!



“Ordinary” People Making an Extraordinary Difference

10 months ago a group of young ladies from **Lourdes High School** were looking for a way to give back to their community. The leader of the group, **Tessa Nordman**, believed that volunteering as a group in the Channel One repack room would be an obvious fit. As a group, they have bagged apples, packed mobile pantry boxes and packaged a variety of bulk food items. With Tessa as their leader, this group has developed a reputation of being dependable and highly motivated. Tessa is not your ordinary high school senior. She volunteers at school and her church, works at a local grocery store, and is looking forward to studying civil engineering in the fall. Tessa says she has been very humbled after learning more about the issue of hunger during her volunteer experiences at Channel One. Tessa has become an advocate for Channel and spoke to her high school about the need to support our organization both with volunteer hours and donations. She has organized six other groups from the high school, including faculty, to come out and volunteer at Channel One and organized food drives at the high school to support the Supplemental Food Shelf. When asked why she has chosen to support Channel One, Tessa stated, “Because the work has a direct impact on the lives of our community members, and I can see the difference it makes.”



Tessa Nordman (far right) and Lourdes High School Volunteers.



Dave Werneke, Ed Walsh and Richard Zelenski of the Golden Kiwanis Club of Rochester

A relationship between Channel One and a local service club formed more than 25 years ago has stayed strong as Channel One has grown in size and mission. **The Golden Kiwanis Club of Rochester** is an organization focused on service. They are a regular volunteer group that provides experience, wisdom and longevity to our volunteer team. Currently, they are a group of 10 retired gentleman with a diverse set of backgrounds, which include our most senior volunteer at Channel One, who is a 91-year-old World War II bomber pilot veteran, a group of retired IBM workers, a traveling salesman and a retired city worker. These men are reliable, hardworking and always add a little humor to the repack room while they work. The Golden K’s have worked nearly every job available at Channel One from the early years when they labeled donated

cans to packing donated camel meat and bagging produce. These gentlemen make a fabulous team, and our staff cannot imagine how certain tasks would get finished without them. The Golden K’s said they enjoy doing projects that help others, and they encourage others to get involved volunteering, donating or advocating for Channel One.

These are only two groups of the over 2,300 volunteers that have sacrificed their time and energy to help feed our neighbors in need. We are honored that they and all of our other stellar volunteers choose to share their gifts and talents with our organization!

Become a Volunteer at Channel One!
Call Karen Doering at 507-424-1705 for more information.



Most Requested Food Donation Items

Channel One appreciates all of the generous food donations we receive! All of these items are helping feed our community members in need. **Here is a list of our most requested food items:**

- Meats, Fish and Protein – canned tuna, ham or chicken, beef stew, chili, peanut butter, canned/dried beans
- Fruits and Vegetables – fresh produce, 100% fruit juice, canned fruits and vegetables, instant potatoes, fruit preserves
- Complete Meals – pasta & sauce, boxed meals, hearty soups
- Grains – cereal, rice
- Cooking Basics – flour, sugar, and cooking oil
- Gluten-free items

Please no glass containers, baby food, perishable items or home canned foods

2015 Board of Directors

Included in our awesome group of volunteers is the Channel One Regional Food Bank Board of Directors. The Board of Directors have a variety of talents and industry backgrounds that greatly contribute to the success of our organization, and we appreciate the time they dedicate to Channel One! In January, the following individuals accepted their officer positions on the Board:

Jim Bressi, Chair, Kwik Trip

Anne Ager, Vice-Chair, Mayo Clinic

Diane Lund, Secretary, Lund Tax & Accounting

Rick Lien, Corporate Officer, Cycle City

Marco Wageman, Corporate Officer, Mayo Clinic

We also welcome a new member to our Board of Directors, James Wilcox!

James works as the Evening News Anchor at ABC 6 News (KAAL TV) in Rochester, MN. He is single and a proud uncle of five nephews! James enjoys spending time on the water. A day at the lake is a perfect day in his book. James has a sister who lives in Hawaii, so he makes trips out there as often as possible. Aloha!

Why did James decide to partner with Channel One?

“With my position at ABC 6 News, I’ve worked with Channel One on a number of projects in the past. I’m also a volunteer at the Channel One Supplemental Food Shelf,” said James. “Through these experiences, I’ve come to see the demand for Channel One’s services and how much of a problem hunger is in our area. I’ve been so impressed with Channel One’s ability and mission to provide a basic need to so many people, and that is food. I’m honored to be a part of the organization.”





Channel One Receives Gifts

- **Charter Communications** generously donated funds to help us distribute enough food for 12,500 meals! In addition, their employees also raised enough funds to distribute an amount of food equal to an additional 5,000 meals!
- **Open Your Heart to the Hungry and the Homeless** awarded Channel One a grant to purchase enough food items for the Supplemental Food Shelf equal to 21,190 meals! This award was a result of the July Challenge Grant.
- **The S.L. Gimbel Foundation Advised Fund at The Community Foundation - Inland Southern California** gifted Channel One funds to purchase 8,824 pre-packaged meals and 8,328 pop-top cans of vegetables for the Backpack Program!



Charter Communications presents a gift to Jennifer Woodford, Executive Director, Channel One



Thank you to all of our generous partners who help us feed people in need in Southeast Minnesota and La Crosse County, Wisconsin!



Upcoming Events

- **Letter Carriers Food Drive** - On **Saturday, May 9th**, the Letter Carriers will conduct their 23rd Annual Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive. Postal customers are encouraged to put food by their mailboxes in the morning, and your letter carrier will take it to the post office where Channel One will collect it.
- **Rochesterfest Parade** - Please come support Channel One at the Rochesterfest Parade on **Friday, June 26th!** Staff and volunteers will gladly accept non-perishable food and monetary donations at the parade.



Channel One staff and volunteers at the Rochesterfest Parade



Feeding People. Changing Lives.

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Channel One Food for Thought is a quarterly publication of Channel One Regional Food Bank, a 501(c)3, non-profit organization whose mission is *“to work in partnership with others to help feed people in need.”* If you receive multiple copies of our newsletter, please share the copies with others and contact us at 507-424-1716, so we can reduce the number of copies. If you have moved, please let us know so we are able to update our mailing list or remove your name. **Thank you!**

Board of Directors: **Jim Bressi**, Kwik Trip, Chair; **Anne Ager**, Mayo Clinic, Vice-Chair; **Diane Lund**, Lund Tax & Accounting, Secretary; **Rick Lien**, Cycle City Owner, Corporate Officer; **Marco Wageman**, Mayo Clinic, Corporate Officer; **Susan Ahlquist**, Community Volunteer, Director; **Tom Aleshire**, Minnesota Prairie County Alliance, Director; **Reverend Paul Bauch**, Peace United Church of Christ, Director; **John Beatty**, Dunlap & Seeger, Director; **Ben Johnson**, Fastenal, Director; **Bob Johnston**, Malt-O-Meal, Director; **Tom Kelly**, Olmsted County Attorney’s Office, Director; **Craig Koenig**, IBM, Director; **Nick Leimer**, Kraus-Anderson Construction Company, Director; **Mark Onderak**, Hormel Foods, Director; **James Wilcox**, ABC 6 News, Director.

Channel One Staff: **Jennifer Woodford**, Executive Director; **Linda Lovik**, Assistant Director; **Ed Stites**, Operations Director; **Sherry Kulas**, Finance Director; **Deb Aries**, Member Services Order Clerk; **Larry Blakely**, Food Shelf Associate; **Michael Diaz**, Warehouse Manager; **Karen Doering**, Community Engagement Coordinator; **Diana Evans**, Development Projects Manager; **Danny Flowers**, Food Bank Shipping Clerk; **Beverly Harris**, Administrative Assistant; **Jeremy Hemmingson**, Mobile Pantry Driver; **Jason Hendrix**, Truck Driver/Warehouse; **Jody Hernandez**, Agency Relations Coordinator; **Jacob Johnson**, Corporate and Individual Gifts Manager; **Candace Kash**, Intake Associate; **Gina Lewis**, Client Services Program Manager; **Mike Osterberg**, Repack Projects Coordinator; **Vince McCoy**, Food Resource Coordinator; **Gene McFarland**, Regional Truck Driver; **Tammy Musty**, Repack Projects Coordinator; **Adam Peterson**, Inventory Control Specialist; **Mark Sikkema**, Warehouse Receiving; **Brian Simonson**, Local Truck Driver; **Steven Sweet**, Back-Up Driver; **Darren Timm**, Back-Up Driver; **Maria Villagrana**, CSFP Coordinator; **John Wagener**, Food Shelf Associate.