



Loaves&Fishes
Ending Hunger in Our Community

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NAPERVILLE STAMP OUT HUNGER PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT LOAVES & FISHES COMMUNITY PANTRY

Loaves & Fishes Community Pantry received 31,000 pounds of food on Saturday through "Stamp Out Hunger," the National Association of Letter Carriers' annual food drive, but that is not the only reason the Naperville-based food pantry is grateful for this annual effort.

"We are very grateful because we have 31,000 pounds of food that we didn't have before. The food collected will help Loaves & Fishes meet the demand for groceries throughout the summer, when food donations tend to be at their lowest," according to Executive Director Charles P. McLimans. "The 'Stamp Out Hunger' food drive also enhances awareness of hunger issues in our community and how everyone can be a part of the solution to end hunger by sharing.

Although the collection was 20,000 pounds off the 2009 total, McLimans remains optimistic. "We believe the inclement weather and the economy played a part in the decrease in collections," he said, "and it also shows that Naperville continues to be affected by prolonged economic stress. One of our community business partners had to close their doors just last week. We understand that many folks are struggling just to make ends meet; we see it every day."

Loaves & Fishes is thankful to all who made the 'Stamp Out Hunger' food drive possible. "We'd like to express our gratitude first and foremost to all the generous Naperville residents who put bags out for their carriers," McLimans said. "This drive would not be possible without the support of the Naperville Postmaster, Dennis J. Lyons, the hard work and enthusiastic participation of members of the National Association of Letter Carriers and the National Rural Letter Carriers Association, and all of our outstanding volunteers." McLimans also recognized the Boy Scouts, who energetically covered the routes of the walking carriers, and Jackson Moving & Storage, Nicor Gas, and Winfield Heating & Cooling, who provided essential logistical support.

The reduced response means the pantry will need to purchase additional food supplies to distribute this summer, and Loaves & Fishes invites participation in community efforts to end hunger from anyone able to contribute food or monetary support. For more information please visit www.loaves-fishes.org or call 630-355-3663 (FOOD).



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