Food Bank of Northwest Indiana
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Supplying food to local pantries for more than 25 years

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FOOD BANK OF NORTHWEST INDIANA DISTRIBUTES RECORD AMOUNT OF FOOD

Hunger Relief Group Provides Over 5 Million Pounds of Food to Those In Need

Gary, IN— In 2011 the Food Bank of Northwest Indiana saw their donations increase by 24% which allowed them to distribute 5,199,160 pounds of food, or the equivalent of 4,332,633 meals. That food was distributed to over 100 food pantries, soup kitchens and after school programs throughout Lake and Porter Counties. In total last year, the Food Bank collected 5,371,113 pounds of food. Some of that food had to be discarded due to expiration dates and damaged packaging, and some is still in inventory and being distributed in the current year which accounts for the discrepancy between the total amounts collected and distributed.

"When we created our five year plan two years ago we hoped to reach 6 million pounds by the end of that plan. As it stands now though it looks like we'll hit that goal at the end of this year, so we're very excited about how quickly things are growing," said Executive Director Angie Williams. "We're very grateful to everyone who has supported us throughout the years and helped us to get to where we are today," she adds.

While donations and the number of pounds distributed are growing, so is the need for the Food Bank's services. "While we're very happy about the numbers for last year, we know that it's still not enough. There are still a lot of people out there that are struggling, and for whatever reason, aren't getting the help they need. We've still got a long way to go, but if we can keep up and increase the amount of support we got last year we'll be a lot closer to meeting the need that is out there in our communities. If we keep working together as a team we can make life better for a lot of people in Lake and Porter Counties," says Williams.

Food donations can be made at the Food Bank Monday through Friday between 8:30am and 4pm. The Food Bank is also always looking for volunteers. To find out about opportunities please contact Chanda Dixon at 219-980-1777 ext. 308, and for more information about food donations and food drives contact Derek Frazier at 219-980-1777 ext. 310.

The Food Bank of Northwest Indiana is located in Gary and supplies food to over 100 pantries and soup kitchens in Lake and Porter Counties. In addition to distributing food to their member agencies the Food Bank also runs the BackPack, Kid's Café, Mobile Pantry, Food Rescue and Pantry on the Go programs and offers pantry referrals. Last year the Food Bank distributed over 5.1 million pounds of food, and served over 5,000 individuals a week.

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If you would like more information about this topic, or to schedule and interview please call or email Megan Sikes.