

NEWS from the North Dakota Department of Human Services

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Food Drive Collects Groceries and Funds for Great Plains Food Bank

Social service employees from Burke, Divide, McKenzie, Mountrail, Renville, Ward, and Williams counties receive award for food drive collection efforts

BISMARCK, N.D. - Employees from county social service offices and the North Dakota Department of Human Services collected 133 pounds of grocery and household items and over \$3,900 in monetary donations for the Great Plains Food Bank. The food drive was held in conjunction with the 17th annual Spring Showcase, a professional development and training conference held earlier this month in Bismarck, N.D.

“Creating hunger-free communities takes partnerships and neighbors helping neighbors,” said Maggie Anderson, executive director of the North Dakota Department of Human Services. “This food drive has been a cornerstone of this event and it provides an opportunity for people to give back to their communities and to touch the lives of North Dakotans who may be in need of nutritious non-perishable foods.”

For the fourth consecutive year, the North West Region won the *Make a Difference* traveling trophy for donating the most to the food drive. Counties in the region include Burke, Divide, McKenzie, Mountrail, Renville, Ward, and Williams counties.

The Great Plains Food Bank will distribute the non-perishable food items to food pantries across North Dakota. The money collected will enable Great Plains Food Bank to purchase about 15,730 additional food items for the pantries.

The Spring Showcase was co-sponsored by the Dacotah Foundation and the North Dakota Department of Human Services’ Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program unit of the Economic Assistance Policy Division. Over 200 people including county eligibility staff and other professionals who work with economic assistance programs and the North Dakota Medicaid program attended various educational presentations during the three-day event.

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