

# **NEWS from the North Dakota Department of Human Services**

## **600 East Boulevard Avenue, Bismarck ND 58505**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Food Drive Collects Groceries and Funds for Great Plains Food Bank**

*Social service employees from Bottineau, Burke, Divide, McHenry, Mountrail, Renville, and Ward counties receive award for food drive collection efforts*

BISMARCK, N.D. - Employees from county social service offices and the N.D. Department of Human Services collected 289 pounds of grocery and household items and over \$3,300 in monetary donations for the Great Plains Food Bank. The food drive was held in conjunction with the 16<sup>th</sup> annual Spring Showcase, a professional development and training conference held last month in Bismarck, N.D.

“Neighbor helping neighbor is one way we can all help end hunger and improve the nutritional needs of North Dakotans,” said Maggie D. Anderson, executive director of the N.D. Department of Human Services. “This food drive is an opportunity to give back to our communities and every contribution makes a difference.”

For the third 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 Bottineau, Burke, Divide, McHenry, Mountrail, Renville, and Ward 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 approximately 13,000 additional food items for the pantries.

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

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