



Kane County Hunger Relief Network
July 8, 2026, 1:00 – 2:00 p.m.

AGENDA

- 1. Welcome – Christine Birns**
- 2. Northern Illinois Food Bank (NIFB) Update – Matt Carlson & Emily Frost**
 - a. Matt shared updates on recent food distribution efforts and summer food resources.
 - i. Members encouraged to share and post the Food Bank's mobile distribution schedule, which changes throughout the month.
 - ii. Summer meal and market information is available through NIFB
 - b. Emily provided federal and state advocacy updates related to food assistance programs.
 - i. Recent SNAP work requirement changes and their impact on participation across IL.
 - ii. Implementation of the new FRESH Program, which will provide one-time financial assistance to eligible IL residents who lost SNAP benefits due to work requirements.
 - iii. Updates on Summer EBT benefits available to eligible families.
 - iv. Expansion of NIFB's Neighbor Advocacy Cohort, which trains community members with lived experience to advocate for hunger relief and food security.
 - v. Availability of bilingual SNAP and Summer EBT outreach materials for community partners.
- 3. Hospital Initiatives Address Food Insecurity – Mariana Wrzosek (Prime Healthcare)**
 - a. Mariana provided an overview of Prime Healthcare and shared initiatives at Mercy Medical Center and St. Joseph Hospital to address food insecurity, including:
 - i. Micro-pantries that provide food, personal care items, and community resource information.
 - ii. Community partnerships with local food pantries, NIFB, farmers markets, and other organizations to improve food access.
 - iii. Food assistance programs, including employee food drives and sponsorship of NIFB Backpack Program
 - iv. Screening patients for food insecurity and connecting them with appropriate community resources and services.



4. Partner Spotlight – Shari Frieders (Between Friends Sugar Grove Food Pantry)

- a. Shari provided an overview of Between Friends Sugar Grove Food Pantry, including its history service area, and community partnerships. Shari highlighted:
 - i. The pantry's growth from grassroots effort to a permanent community resource
 - ii. Partnerships that have supporting pantries continued expansion.
 - iii. Ongoing efforts to improve access to community resources and strengthen sustainability
 - iv. Plans to continue building partnerships and enhancing services for neighbors in need.

5. KCHRN Hunger Action Month Update

- a. Planning is underway for Hunger Action Month in September. The campaign will include a partner video and social media spotlights featuring local food pantries and organizations. Interested partners will receive follow-up information.

6. Member Feedback & Next Meeting

- a. Members requested access to the presentation slides, flyers, and social media graphics.
- b. Next meeting date: **October 7, 1:00pm-2:00pm**
- c. **Link for member feedback:** <https://redcap.link/kchrn-meeting-feedback>

7. Adjourn

- a. Meeting adjourned.