First Bank of Highland Park

Where Community is First!



Northern Illinois Food Bank

First Bank of Highland Park (FBHP) is pleased to welcome Northern Illinois Food Bank as the featured non-profit organization on the Ruth Fell Wander Community Art Wall throughout the month of September. In recognition of September being Hunger Action Month, Northern Illinois Food Bank, along with more than 200 Feeding America food banks across the country, is calling on the community to "Go Orange".

Northern Illinois Food Bank leads the Northern Illinois community in solving hunger by providing nutritious meals to those in need through innovative programs and partnerships. Since 1983, food manufacturers, local grocers, corporations, foundations, and individuals have come together to donate food and funds, and evaluate and repack food for distribution to a network of more than 900 community food pantries and feeding programs, serving more than half a million neighbors annually across 13 counties. That commitment provided 69.1 million meals to those in need in FY19.

"Hunger is a real issue here in Northern Illinois," said Jennifer Nau, Communications Director, Northern Illinois Food Bank. "We serve more than half a million neighbors in our service area every year—neighbors who are making tough choices every day about whether to pay bills and other expenses, or put food on the table. We believe that's a choice no one should have to make, so we look forward to coming together as a community each September to raise awareness and support our neighbors in need."

The art wall provides an opportunity for the community to learn more about Northern Illinois Food Bank, their volunteer opportunities, upcoming events, and how to donate—whether by starting a virtual food drive, or by making a donation.

This year, the Food Bank has teamed up with communities across Northern Illinois to host and participate in a number of events and initiatives throughout the month of September to raise awareness of hunger:

Volunteer or attend an event – get involved during Hunger Action Month and participate in one of the three remaining Pack-A-Thon events: To sign up for a Pack-A-Thon volunteer shift, call (630) 443-6910, or visit their website. A full list of Hunger Action Month events is also located there.

Donate or Host an online Food & Fund Drive – Visit the Food Bank's Virtual Food & Fund Drive page here and help solve hunger in Northern Illinois – every \$1 donated helps provide \$8 worth of groceries.

Pass the Plate – Throughout the month of September, restaurants across our 13 counties are collaborating with the Food Bank to "pass the plate" to help solve hunger in Northern Illinois. See the list of participating restaurants and on their website.

Throughout the month of September, FBHP will be collecting non-perishable food items to support the Food Bank. The exhibit is located in the bank lobby and will be open to the public during regular bank hours.

To learn how you can support Northern Illinois Food Bank or its programs in your community, please visit their website.