



www.foodbankst.org

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A Regional Agency of
Catholic Charities

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TO: News Editors
DATE: March 24, 2009
CONTACT: Diana M. Rumsey, Director of Major Gifts
Food Bank of the Southern Tier
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RE: Cargill Makes Donation for Emergency Hunger Relief

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Southern Tier, NY – The Food Bank of the Southern Tier announces a grant from Cargill Salt and Cargill Incorporated. The funds will be used for the Backpack™ Program in Schuyler County. In addition, 3,750 pounds of beef patties were donated to the Food Bank. As part of their emergency hunger relief effort, Cargill Incorporated provided matching funds to Cargill Salt for a total grant of \$10,560.

The Watkins Glen effort is a part of a \$5 million donation Cargill announced in December 2008. Hunger relief agencies are facing a growing demand for their services at a time when donations are shrinking. As a result, Cargill committed funds at global, national and local levels to provide immediate hunger relief to area nonprofits.

“We recognize that our continued success depends on the growth and health of our communities and partners,” said Don Chutas, manager of the Cargill Salt location. “Given that Cargill seeks to be the global leader in nourishing people, we are making this donation to help address immediate shortfalls of food for families in need.”

The Food Bank’s Backpack™ Program was started in 2005. This program provides healthy, kid-friendly, and easy to prepare foods to children at risk of hunger over weekends and holiday breaks when children do not have access to free or reduced price school meal programs. During the 2007/2008 school year, the Food Bank’s Backpack™ Program served 16 school districts across the Southern Tier, reaching over 830 children per week. So far for the 2008/ 2009 school year, the Backpack™ Program is serving 18 sites and an estimated 1,100 children per week.

To learn more about the Food Bank of the Southern Tier and how you can support local hunger-relief efforts, visit the Food Bank’s website at www.foodbankst.org or call 607-796-6061.

About the Food Bank

In operation since 1981, the Food Bank of the Southern Tier distributes food and food-related products to people in need through a network of more than 180 hunger-relief agencies including food pantries, soup kitchens, shelters and other non-profit organizations. The Food Bank also has a number of programs that fight hunger including the Backpack Program™ and Mobile Food Pantry. Located in Elmira, NY it is a regional agency of Catholic Charities and one of eight Feeding America affiliate Food Banks in New York State serving the six counties of Broome, Chemung, Schuyler, Tompkins, Tioga and Steuben.

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