

## **Minnesota FoodShare announces record-breaking donation**

Written by  
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Minnesota FoodShare last week announced a record-breaking cash donation of \$450,000 from the Medtronic Foundation's employee drive to help provide food and restock more than 260 food shelves across Minnesota. The donation will help address the growing demand for food which already is up 13 percent over last year.

"In light of the tremendous need in our community, the employees of Medtronic and the Medtronic Foundation are excited to come together and contribute a gift that we know will have a real impact in the community," said David Etzwiler, executive director of the Medtronic Foundation. "Thanks to our employees, this unprecedented gift means 1.8 million more meals for hungry Minnesota families this year."

With the tremendous buying power of Minnesota FoodShare and food shelves all across Minnesota, the Medtronic contribution provides enough meals to feed more than 4,000 families of four for more than one month.

In February, the Medtronic Foundation announced to its employees it would match and double every donation they made to the food shelf. For example, a \$50 donation from a Medtronic employee would result in a \$150 gift to Minnesota FoodShare.

"This gift from Medtronic employees, with matching contributions from the Medtronic Foundation is the largest employee cash donation in the history of Minnesota FoodShare," said Barbara Thell, director, Minnesota FoodShare. "It is our hope that this gift will help inspire additional individuals and organizations to contribute to Minnesota FoodShare's March Campaign to help meet the overwhelming demand of families who need assistance putting food on the table."

Each March, Minnesota FoodShare kicks off the largest food drive in the state restocking more than 260 food shelves across Minnesota. Right now nearly one million Minnesotans live in households that are struggling to put food on the table. Increasing unemployment and declining economic conditions are forcing many more to turn to food shelves for the first time. The March Campaign recruits thousands of congregations, corporations, schools and civic groups to run local food and fund drives to help support the effort. Half of all the groceries distributed at Minnesota food shelves each year are generated by the March Campaign.

To get involved, consider making a cash donation to Minnesota FoodShare's March Campaign. Visit their website to find a food shelf near you: <http://www.gmcc.org/foodshare>. All of the money raised goes directly towards purchasing food for Minnesota Food shelves.

### **About Medtronic and the Medtronic Foundation**

Medtronic, Inc. ([www.medtronic.com](http://www.medtronic.com)), headquartered in Minneapolis, is the global leader in medical technology – alleviating pain, restoring health, and extending life for millions of people around the world. The Medtronic Foundation is committed to improving the health of people and communities. Its grant making is focused in three areas: health, education and community.

### **About Minnesota FoodShare**

Minnesota FoodShare is a program of the Greater Minneapolis Council of Churches. It is an

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interfaith collaboration that raises food and funds annually for food shelves in the state of Minnesota and advocates for hungry Minnesotans year-round. For more information about Minnesota FoodShare visit: [www.gmcc.org/foodshare](http://www.gmcc.org/foodshare).