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News Release

Food Bank for the Heartland to Celebrate Milestone Year

2011 Highlighted by Move to New Distribution Center

Omaha, Neb. Jan. 20 – 2011 marks 30 years of service for Food Bank for the Heartland. In the face of a growing demand for food, the Food Bank will relocate later this summer to a larger facility at 10525 J Street in Omaha. The 76,320-square foot facility is nearly twice the size of the Food Bank's current location.

"We anticipate that in two years we will outgrow our current building and it will not be adequate for the amount of food we will distribute," said Food Bank President/CEO Susan Ogborn. "We experienced alarming growth in food distribution in 2010 and we do not anticipate the need to subside in 2011."

In 2010 the Food Bank distributed 9,002,588 pounds of food compared to 6,566,767 pounds in 2009. That represents a 37 percent increase. Last year's food distribution total allowed the Food Bank to provide approximately 6,925,000 meals.

The Food Bank will move to its new location at 10525 J Street in August. The building was purchased for \$2.6 million. Renovation begins on the facility next month. Funds for the project are being donated by area foundations, corporations and committed individuals.

"We are grateful to have wonderful partners in our mission to eliminate hunger in Nebraska and western Iowa," said Ogborn. "The support of our funders means we will be able to increase our efficiency and efforts to serve those struggling to put food on the table well into the future."

The Omaha Food Bank opened 30 years ago in a 3,800-square foot warehouse at 4983 Hamilton Street. 36,861 pounds of product was distributed in 1981. In 1985 the Food Bank moved to 723 North 18th Street before relocating to the current J Street facility in 1999.

About Food Bank for the Heartland (a member of Feeding America):

Food Bank for the Heartland is a private 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that acts as a central clearinghouse through which the food industry and community may donate surplus food to feed hungry individuals, families and children. Food is distributed to more than 350 member agencies in 77 counties in Nebraska and 16 counties in western Iowa. Annually, Food Bank for the Heartland distributes nine million pounds of product helping to feed people in need in the Heartland.

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