



For Immediate Release
February 25, 2010

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Legislators Shop for Local Food Pantries

The Kane County Farm Bureau's 9th Annual Food Check-Out Challenge was held on February 26, 2010 at the Batavia JEWEL-OSCO® on Randall Road in Batavia. 55th District State Representative Randy Ramey and 12th District State Representative Sara Feigenholtz gathered \$2,538.33 worth of groceries in the 5-minute Shopping Spree, to benefit local food pantries and to mark National Food Check-Out Week.

Representative Ramey gathered \$1,693.52 in food for the Northern Illinois Food Bank, assisted by their Retail Program Manager, Dave Korczykowski and several Food Bank volunteers. Representative Feigenholtz collected \$844.81 in groceries for the Lakeview Pantry, Chicago. She was assisted by their Executive Director, Gary Garland. Feigenholtz is KCFB's "adopted" legislator through a statewide program where farmers in downstate and suburban counties "adopt" an urban legislator to foster an exchange of rural and urban perspectives on issues of importance to all.

All of the food was purchased by the Kane County Farm Bureau and donated to the two food pantries. The contestants were cheered on by the Batavia High School Cheerleaders, and motivated by the sounds of the school's band. Farm Bureau and food pantry volunteers outfitted in "team" T-shirts from the respective food pantries assisted the competitors by shouting encouragement and supplying empty carts as they made their dash down the aisles.

Food Check-Out Week, February 21-27, is devoted to helping teach Americans how to stretch their grocery dollars with healthy, nutritious food. Because U.S. farmers are the most productive and efficient food producers in the world, food is a real bargain in the U.S. when compared to the rest of the world. Food Check-Out Week is marked each year by KCFB with a Shopping Spree to benefit local food pantries.

"Hunger Relief is a top priority for JEWEL-OSCO, especially during these challenging times," said JEWEL-OSCO Communications Manager Karen May. "Our Batavia store is honored to host this wonderful event that will help individuals and families in need."

Since its inception in 2001 the Farm Bureau sponsored Shopping Sprees have donated nearly \$17,000 in groceries to local food pantries. Area public officials who have participated in the events have included all State Senators and State Representatives representing Kane County. The Shopping Spree compliments KCFB's *Harvest for ALL* program by which farmers and non-farmers contributed over \$13,000 to local food pantries through proceeds from crops, cash, and in-kind donations.

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Kane County Farm Bureau is a not-for-profit membership association serving members, local agricultural producers and Kane County communities since 1912. With over 18,000 member families, Farm Bureau membership is open to all in Kane County who support a stable, profitable and permanent agricultural sector as a vital part of a strong economy in a free society.