

SAINT THOMAS ACADEMY AND KOWALSKI'S COLLECT OVER 11,000 POUNDS OF FOOD FOR NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSE

Second Annual Advocacy of the Hungry Food Drive Shatters West Side Organization's Previous Record Donation

MENDOTA HEIGHTS, Minn., March 16, 2010 – Saint Thomas Academy and Kowalski's Markets <<http://www.kowalskis.com/>> announced today that the **Second Annual Advocacy of the Hungry Food Drive**, held March 1 to 5, netted 11,280 pounds of food for Neighborhood House's <<http://www.neighb.org/>> 2010 March food drive campaign. The donated food, which was more than double last year's record amount collected, will help serve over 700 individuals.

"The partnership with Saint Thomas Academy and Kowalski's means that many of our parents and children know they can go to sleep tonight without being hungry," said Cindi Yang, basic needs program manager for Neighborhood House. "They will have a variety of the healthy, nutritious and culturally specific food they prefer."

The Neighborhood House food shelf distributes about 2,500 pounds of food per day or 12,500 pounds of food per week. The organization has had an increase in demand for food as the cost of living increases and job security/stability decreases. The organization's partnership with Saint Thomas Academy and Kowalski's Markets help Neighborhood House keep up with the demand.

For the second consecutive year, students collected food and monetary donations door-to-door in their neighborhoods. Kowalski's donated 2,000 grocery bags to gather up the groceries and an additional \$1,000 toward the cause. Cadets raised another \$1,000 through the collection.

"We are pleased to partner with Saint Thomas Academy and Neighborhood House to help make a difference in the fight against hunger in our community," said Carol Lamb, director of sales and marketing for Kowalski's Markets. "The students did a phenomenal job again this year!"

Neighborhood House has set a agency-wide goal of raising 160,000 pounds of food or the equivalent in financial contributions during Minnesota FoodShare's <<http://www.minnesotafoodshare.org/>> 2010 March food drive campaign. The Advocacy of the Hungry donation represents 7 percent of the organization's overall March goal – the largest goal the organization has ever established. A portion of every financial contribution to the food shelf during the month of March will be matched by the Feinstein Foundation and Minnesota FoodShare. If people want to contribute food or finances, they can contact Adam Thompson, athompson@neighb.org or 651-789-2503.

Minnesota FoodShare's March campaign is the largest food and fund drive in Minnesota. It coordinates with Minnesota communities and organizations to collect and donate food and/or funds to their local food shelf to help end hunger in Minnesota. The March campaign is responsible for more than half of the food distributed each year from food shelves across Minnesota.

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