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SAINT THOMAS ACADEMY CADETS HOPE TO COLLECT MORE THAN 5,000 POUNDS OF FOOD FOR NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSE

Kowalski's Markets Supports Academy's 2nd Annual Advocacy of the Hungry Food Drive

MENDOTA HEIGHTS, Minn., Feb. 23, 2010 – [Saint Thomas Academy](#), [Kowalski's Markets](#) and [Neighborhood House](#) announced today the **Second Annual Advocacy of the Hungry Food Drive**. As part of the nonprofit's 2010 March food drive campaign, students will fill 2,000 Kowalski's grocery bags with food they collect door-to-door from Monday, March 1 through Friday, March 5. In addition to grocery bags, Kowalski's is donating \$1,000 towards the students' efforts.

Campus Minister R. Wood '10 of Mendota Heights shared with fellow students the importance of the Advocacy of the Hungry Food Drive. He said, "Fifty percent of the food that stocks Minnesota's food shelves for the entire year is collected during the March campaign."

Last year, Academy students, faculty and staff filled 1,000 Kowalski's grocery bags with more than 5,000 pounds of food – twice the amount of the Neighborhood House's previous record one-time donation. This year, the students hope to surpass last year's donation.

"It took us almost two weeks to give out the 5,000 pounds of food collected by the Academy last year," said Cindi Yang, basic needs manager for Neighborhood House. In a year when the organization saw a 35 percent increase in requests for food, the collection helped meet the needs.

"This year we hope to bring in at least the same amount of food again," Adam Thompson, community relations manager for Neighborhood House, "as students advocate for those who can't advocate for themselves."

With money they collect during the drive, students can shop the Kowalski's Market in Eagan and receive a free Starbuck's coffee.

"We're excited to be a part of the effort again this year," said Carol Lamb, director of sales and marketing for Kowalski's Markets. "Kowalski's is a civic business. We believe it is our obligation to be involved in the community."

Neighborhood House has set a statewide goal of raising 12 million pounds and dollars during [Minnesota FoodShare's](#) 2010 March food drive campaign. This is 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.

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.

About Kowalski's Markets

Owned by Kowalski's Inc. of Woodbury, Kowalski's Markets is a family of nine upscale grocery stores in the Twin Cities. Kowalski's has worked with the Neighborhood House for a number years, frequently hosting food collection drives to help end hunger in the Twin Cities. The markets host

classes, provide catering, and sell a wide variety of traditional and hard-to-find perishable and non-perishable items. For more information, visit www.kowalskis.com.

About Saint Thomas Academy

Founded in 1885, Saint Thomas Academy is an all-male, college preparatory, Catholic, military/leadership school committed to preparing young men to succeed in college and in life. Nationally accredited by the Independent Schools Association of the Central States (ISACS), the Academy challenges young men to excel academically, spiritually, morally and physically in and out of the classroom. For more information, please visit www.cadets.com.

About Neighborhood House

Providing services to more than 10,000 participants annually, Neighborhood House is a multi-cultural, multi-lingual center with programs in basic needs, education and youth leadership. It is committed to the success of refugees, immigrants, youth and the neighborhoods it serves.

Founded in 1897 on Saint Paul's historic West Side, Neighborhood House has a long history of fulfilling the settlement house tradition of helping immigrants and low-income individuals integrate into society, connect with community and achieve a better quality of life. For more information, visit www.neighb.org.

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NOTE FOLLOW-UP PHOTO OPP: Adam Thompson, community relations manager for Neighborhood House will pick up the anticipated thousands of pounds of groceries at the Academy on Friday, March 5. An advisory will be sent when the time has been determined.