

January 30, 2008

Dear Community Member:

On behalf of all of us at Hunger Solutions Minnesota, I would like to formally and publicly commend the XYZ Food Shelf for meeting the necessary standards set by Hunger Solutions Minnesota to be considered an HSM Blue Ribbon Food Shelf®.

Hunger Solutions Minnesota (HSM) is a statewide organization with a mission dedicated to ending hunger. Our membership includes nearly 300 food shelves and six America's Second Harvest affiliated food banks across the state. Our vision is that through advocacy, supporting sound public policy and strategic communications, we take action to end hunger and assure food security for all Minnesotans.

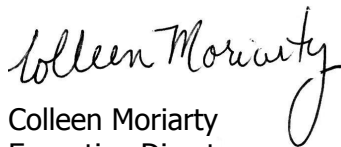
The concept behind the HSM Blue Ribbon Food Shelf® Initiative was to produce an evaluative tool that gives recognition to food shelves that offer excellent service to their community. We expect that it would also encourage other food shelves to increase their level of service to their local community members.

The evaluative tool focuses on two aspects relevant to food shelves. First, what level of service is currently provided to clients? Examples of these criteria include: hours of operation, the client choice model of service delivery, and accessibility. And secondly, what happens at the food shelf to ensure that these services will continue to be offered in the future? Examples of evaluation criteria include: financial management, administration, use of volunteers, board of directors involvement, and strategic planning. A food shelf is required to meet a minimum of 80 points from an available 100. This initiative is the only evaluative tool of its kind available to food shelves in Minnesota.

Having thoroughly reviewed XYZ Food Shelf's responses to our tool, as well as their supporting documentation, we feel that donors and supporters of this food shelf can feel confident that the food shelf is working effectively and efficiently to meet the needs of their community. Supporters can also be confident that when someone uses the XYZ Food Shelf, that person is treated with dignity and respect.

In closing, the XYZ Food Shelf deserves to be recognized and congratulated for establishing itself as an HSM Blue Ribbon Food Shelf®. This status is not easily attainable and the XYZ Food Shelf can consider themselves on the cutting edge of service delivery to hungry people.

Sincerely,



Colleen Moriarty
Executive Director
Hunger Solutions Minnesota