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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Good News! Minnesota FoodShare's 2009 March Campaign Exceeds Goal and Raises 33 Percent More than 2008 Campaign**

**April 24, 2009** — The results are in! Minnesota FoodShare announced today that the March Campaign raised 12,020,197 pounds of food and dollars combined. This is over 2 million more than the 2009 goal and a 33 percent increase over the total raised in 2008. The March Campaign is the largest food drive in the state and unique event because 100 percent of the 4.6 million pounds of food and 7.4 million dollars the Campaign raised will go directly to Minnesota food shelves.

“The results are especially exciting given our current economic climate,” said Sue Kainz, Minnesota FoodShare’s March Campaign coordinator, “The March Campaign began in response to the tough economic times of the early 1980’s and it has continued to grow. As more Minnesotans turn to their local food shelves for support, more of their neighbors are giving what they can to help.”

This year cash donations made up 62 percent of the campaign total. This is especially meaningful because due to their access to discount product and programs, food shelves can stretch each dollar donated into approximately four pounds of food. After doing the math, that means the campaign will achieve in 34.3 million pounds, nearly two-thirds of the total food distributed by Minnesota food shelves annually.

Kainz reminds us that although the March Campaign was a great success, food shelves need support year-round, especially during the lean summer months when donations are down and need is up because hungry children do not have access to school lunch programs.

For more information about the March Campaign, please visit [www.gmcc.org/foodshare/marchcampaign](http://www.gmcc.org/foodshare/marchcampaign).

Minnesota FoodShare is a program of the Greater Minneapolis Council of Churches (GMCC) which operates a family of social service programs and recruits support across denominational lines to help Minnesota families living in poverty. GMCC unites people of faith to serve people in need.

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