

**Emergency Food & Shelter Local Board Program**  
**612 North Main Street, Suite 300**  
**Rockford, Illinois 61103-6929**  
**815/968-5400**

***News Release***

**For Immediate Release**

**Contact:** Heather Maier, United Way of Rock River Valley, 968-5400

**\$176,787 Federal Grant Awarded to Emergency Food and Shelter Programs in Winnebago County**

(Rockford, IL – 5/19/08)...Several organizations in Winnebago County will share a federal grant totaling \$176,787 designated for local emergency food and shelter programs.

The grant was allocated through the Emergency Food and Shelter Program (EFSP) of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for non-profit and governmental agencies to supplement programs that help hungry and homeless people. The program's local agent, United Way of Rock River Valley, is administering funding and reporting of the EFSP grant. A local board, whose membership composition is mandated through federal guidelines, recommended distribution of the grant.

This year several programs in Winnebago County will benefit from the award. Funds available this year are less than the previous years and are based on the local unemployment census. Allocation of the grant is as follows:

<b>Agency</b>	<b>Program</b>	<b>Award</b>
Lifescape Community Services, Inc.	Mobile Meals	\$27,000
St. Elizabeth Community Center	Food Pantry	\$3,400
The Rock River Valley Pantry	Food Pantry	\$17,600
The Salvation Army	Food Pantry	\$5,600
American Red Cross	Mass Shelter	\$38,700
City of Rockford Human Services	Hotel Lodging	\$8,640
PHASE/WAVE	Mass Shelter	\$24,560
Rockford MELD	Mass Shelter	\$17,200
Shelter Care Ministries	Hotel Lodging	\$18,970
The Salvation Army	Utilities	\$11,581
United Way of Rock River Valley	Administration	\$3,536

Last year, the EFSP grant to Winnebago County totaled \$189,615. Local agencies used the funds to provide 14,148 home delivered meals, food pantry items to 13,262 individuals, utility assistance for 101 individuals and 9,467 nights of emergency lodging.

###