



Press Release

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30th Anniversary Celebration of the Stuff-A-Bus Food Drive Wraps Up with 10.048 Tons of Donations Collected

(Peoria, IL) -- The 30th Anniversary Celebration of the Stuff-A-Bus food drive to benefit the Peoria Friendship House of Christian Service officially wrapped up on Tuesday, November 28. The campaign began on October 27 and concluded with a press conference at the Peoria Friendship House of Christian Service to announce the total weight of the bus filled with the food collected during the campaign.

The total weight of the food collected on the bus during the campaign was 20,096 pounds or 10.048 tons.

“We are thrilled we met our goal to collect 10 tons of food for the 30th Anniversary Celebration of Stuff-A-Bus this year. It is obvious by the amount of donations collected that this food drive would not be a continual success without the generosity and support we receive from the community. These donations are a blessing to the families we serve in our food pantry,” said Robert Montgomery, President and CEO of Peoria Friendship House.

For the past 30 years, CityLink has hosted the Stuff-A-Bus food drive to help eliminate hunger in Peoria. With a long partnership with Kroger to collect enough food to stuff a classic CityLink bus, the donations collected during the annual food drive benefit the food pantry at the Peoria Friendship House. Since January of this year, the Peoria Friendship House food pantry has provided approximately 54,000 meals to families and individuals who are dealing with hunger in Peoria.

Other organizations and businesses that volunteered their time, resources and/or collected food include: The Amalgamated Transit Union Local #416; Chronicle Media; CityLink’s administrative staff; Cumulus Radio staff and listeners; First Baptist Church of Peoria; First Christian Church in Peoria; Fix My Gadget locations in Peoria, Peoria Heights and Pekin; Ghostbusters Peoria; Methodist College; Mt. Moriah Missionary Baptist Church in Peoria; MV Transportation; Nelson Chiropractic staff and patients; OneFire Media; Peoria Disposal Company; Peoria Chiefs; Peoria Fire Department Explorers Program;

Peoria Mustangs; Peoria Police Department Explorers Program; Peoria Public Works; Peoria Riverfront Museum; Peoria Rivermen; Pepperell Chiropractic staff and patients; Susan G. Komen Memorial Affiliate; Tazewell County Resource Center; W.D. Boyce Council (Boy Scouts of America); the City of West Peoria's administrative staff and residents; and WMBD/WYZZ staff and viewers.

Cumulus Radio, WYZZ Fox 43, WMBD CBS 31 and CIPROUD.com were media partners in this food drive. The Amalgamated Transit Union Local #416 is also a long-time participating sponsor of Stuff-A-Bus.

Since 1951, Peoria Friendship House of Christian Service has made a powerful difference in the Near North side and the East Bluff neighborhoods of Peoria, and beyond. They have a heritage filled with stories of how they have brought hope into people's lives. Their Advocacy, Coaching, Education and Support approach provides wrap-around services supported by short and long-term coaching for both the Latino and English speaking communities. They provide valuable services, such as food, clothing, youth education, adult education, employment preparation, and finance and employment coaching, while encouraging lasting change for those they serve. The staff at Peoria Friendship House is dedicated to providing hope and guidance that offers a "hand-up" rather than hand-outs. They also form collaborations with community partners to provide resources outside of their agency. For further information on Peoria Friendship House programs call 309-671-5200 or visit their website at www.friendship.house. The Peoria Friendship House of Christian Service is proud to be a Heart of Illinois United Way Community Partner.

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