
SENATOR MICHAEL NOLAND

Public Service that Works for Us



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NOLAND TAKES THE SNAP CHALLENGE TO FIGHT HUNGER

ELGIN - September is Hunger Action Month and State Senator Michael Noland (D – Elgin) is encouraging constituents to join him in taking the SNAP Hunger Challenge to support hunger relief.

“In this down economy, a few wrong financial turns and any one of us could end up living hand-to-mouth. As a child, I experienced real hunger first-hand during a difficult time for my family. Those memories continue to shape my character. They help me identify with others who are down on their luck,” said Senator Noland. “Even more families are turning to food stamps now – not because they are lazy or destitute – but because they are facing the worst recession most of us have ever seen.”

September is Hunger Action Month. Feeding Illinois, which is made up of food banks throughout the State, has issued a challenge: they are calling on us to eat on a \$4.50 per day budget from September 19-25. They chose this number because the average benefit from SNAP (formerly known as food stamps) is \$4.50 a day (or \$30 a week). Noland and his staff are taking on the challenge, and he urges others to join them. He will be journaling and posting food logs as Notes on his Facebook page throughout the week. Individuals can join Noland’s team on Facebook or pledge to take the challenge online at www.feedingillinois.org.

There are other ways to participate for those not able or willing to limit their grocery store tab to \$30 a week. Feeding Illinois suggests contributing to a local food bank or volunteering at a soup kitchen.

Noland sponsored the bipartisan measure that created the hunger relief check-off in 2009 (Senate Bill 1544 / Public Act 96-604). It allows taxpayers to voluntarily donate their income tax refunds to support food banks. Noland also supported the bill creating the statewide Commission to End Hunger (Senate Bill 3158 / Public Act 96-1119).

“This initiative shines light on a growing problem. But, even more importantly, it is an exercise in empathy,” said Senator Noland. “I’d like to thank Feeding Illinois for offering up this challenge and fighting hunger every day.”

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