

Press Release

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Stratford Advisory Group Allocates Food at the Greater Chicago Food Depository.

Chicago, IL – April 7, 2009 – The old adage says “man cannot live on bread alone”. Still, having daily access to bread, milk and other food essentials goes a long way to making life easier for thousands of hungry, needy families. Recognizing this need in their own backyard, Chicago-based investment consulting firm **Stratford Advisory Group, Inc.** felt compelled to provide its employees the chance to take a break from allocating funds to allocating food at the Greater Chicago Food Depository for a few hours on April 7, 2009.

The Greater Chicago Food Depository distributes donated and purchased food through a network of 600 food pantries, soup kitchens and shelters to 500,000 adults and children every year. The Depository greatly relies on volunteers to “repack” the majority of its food into individual and family sizes that allow for easier distribution of more than 95,000 meals every day.

Upon arriving at the Depository, Stratford did not know exactly what they were repacking for their session; any given day at the Depository’s warehouse can mean working with any assortment of food types. But, on this afternoon, Stratford was charged with working with two basic staples of any dinner table – bread and milk.

The first half of the session involved boxing troves of brand-name loaves, bagels, pitas, and buns for delivery. Stratford (combined with other volunteers) was separated into groups tasked with checking expiration dates, gleaning for staleness and molds, and labeling and boxing the items. The assembly line was a little slow at first, but soon

everyone was working at a blistering pace. In all, nearly 4100 pounds of bread was packed in under two hours!

Afterwards, Stratford wrapped and stacked packages of powdered milk into what are termed "emergency boxes" and, in even less time, Stratford put together over 3000 packages for distribution.

But while Stratford was gratified by their tremendous team effort, the amount of food assembled provided a humble reminder of the enormity of the hunger situation facing the less fortunate – a welcome perspective during these rough economic times.

At the end of the day, the Depository's warehouse foreman, Keith Richards told everyone that "the work we did today will feed someone tomorrow". For those from Stratford, the memory of this experience will last much longer.

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