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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Iowa Food Bank Association Announces Funding Recipients**

DES MOINES, IA – The Iowa Food Bank Association (IFBA) is pleased to present 25 food pantries with funding to increase refrigeration and freezer capacity at their facilities.

The funding comes from an Iowa Department of Natural Resources Solid Waste Alternatives Program grant received at the end of 2014 with matching funds by the Iowa food banks. Iowa food pantries were able to apply to receive up to \$1,000 towards the equipment.

“This is an incredible opportunity to address hunger and food waste,” says Cory Berkenes, State Director of the IFBA, “storage capacity at many of the food pantries around the state is a real issue; collaborating on this project to offer solutions to these issues is mutually beneficial.”

The overall goal of the project is two-fold. “Over 19% of children in Iowa are food insecure. We need to find ways to get more food to children and families in need,” says Dan Nickey, Associate Director of the Iowa Waste Reduction Center (IWRC). “At the same time, Americans are throwing away 40% of their food into the landfill.” Providing the food pantries with increased capacities will provide more food to those in need, and reduce the amount of food wasted in the landfill.

The recipients of the funding include:

- Camanche Food Pantry, Camanche
- Caring Hands Food Pantry, Altoona
- Community Basket, Ida Grove
- Community Ministries, Inc., Marcus
- Coralville Ecumenical Food Pantry, Coralville
- Epworth United Methodist Church, Epworth
- First Assembly of God, Indianola
- Hamukua Youth Center, Washington
- Heartland Youth For Christ, Cedar Rapids
- Heritage Word of Life Assembly of God, Mitchellville
- His Hands Food Pantry, Oran
- IC Compassion Food Pantry, Iowa City
- Monroe County Helping Hands Center, Inc., Albia
- Morningside Lutheran Church, Sioux City
- New Life Assembly, Manchester
- Operation Threshold, Grundy Center
- PCM Food Pantry, Monroe
- Postville Community Support, Postville
- Prince of Peace Food Pantry, Davenport
- The Ruth Project, Church of the Open Bible, Iowa Falls
- Salvation Army, Ames
- Upper Des Moines Opportunity, Pocahontas
- Upper Des Moines Opportunity, Storm Lake

- Vineyard Community Church, Waverly
- Word of Faith Tabernacle, Davenport

Recipients were chosen based on need by a committee made up of members of the IFBA, Iowa food banks and the IWRC. The recipients will receive funds to off-set the expenses of purchasing the additional freezers or refrigerators.

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The Iowa Food Bank Association (IFBA) is a collaboration of the eight Feeding America food banks that serve all of Iowa's 99 counties. Together, the food banks serve over 1,000 non-profit organizations serving individuals in need. These organizations include food pantries, emergency meal sites, congregate meal sites, emergency shelters, and other sites that provide food to clients. The mission of IFBA is to coordinate efforts to alleviate hunger by supporting the Feeding America food banks that serve the state. Collaborative efforts will allow the food banks to become more efficient and effective in serving hungry Iowans.