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## **MetLife Foundation Awards \$20,000 Grant to the Food Bank of Iowa**

**Des Moines, Iowa – September 22, 2011** – MetLife Foundation has announced a \$20,000 grant to the Food Bank of Iowa. The grant is part of MetLife Foundation’s Food Bank Initiative. The grant, one of thirteen awarded to communities across the country, will enable the Food Bank of Iowa to provide food assistance to their partner agencies who continue to assist more and more individuals daily.

“Promoting healthy and strong communities is a cornerstone of our work,” said Dennis White, president and CEO of MetLife Foundation. “Food banks play a vital role in meeting basic needs, especially for children and older adults.”

“We are thrilled to receive this donation from MetLife Foundation,” says Carey Miller, executive director of the Food Bank of Iowa. “These funds will help us provide essential food resources to support Iowans in need as the demand for food assistance continues to increase.”

Today, 1 in 8 Iowans, or more than 382,000 individuals, are food insecure, meaning they lack the resources to maintain a healthy and active lifestyle. The situation is even worse for children – 1 in 5 do not have enough to eat. In FYE 6/30/11, the Food Bank of Iowa distributed 8,731,975 pounds of food, an increase of 10% over the previous year.

Since 2008, MetLife Foundation has awarded more than \$2 million to support food banks, Meals on Wheels programs, the MetLife Healthy Families Program at the New York Botanical Garden and an online tool created by AARP Foundation to help raise additional funds for local hunger relief organizations focused on serving older adults.

### **About MetLife Foundation**

MetLife Foundation was established in 1976 to carry on MetLife’s longstanding tradition of corporate contributions and community involvement. The Foundation is committed to building a secure future for individuals and communities worldwide. Through programs focusing on empowering older adults, preparing young people and building livable communities, MetLife Foundation increases access and opportunities for people of all ages. Since it was established, MetLife Foundation has made more than \$500 million in

grants and \$75 million in program related investments. For more information visit [www.metlife.org](http://www.metlife.org)

**About the Food Bank of Iowa**

The Food Bank of Iowa is a private, not-for-profit organization committed to its mission of alleviating hunger through food distribution, partnership and education. The Food Bank of Iowa solicits, receives, inventories and distributes donated food and grocery products to 425 partner agencies in 55 counties who directly serve needy individuals within their communities. Forty-two of these counties are served from their facility in Des Moines with the remaining 13 counties being served by their redistribution organization, the Food Bank of Southern Iowa. To learn more, visit [www.foodbankiowa.org](http://www.foodbankiowa.org).

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