

Tyson Foods donates 1.7 million pounds of chicken to hungry people in Illinois

On May 27, 2009, after more than seven years of litigation, including two appeals in Federal and state courts, final approval of a settlement was granted today in the Circuit Court of Madison County, IL involving a class action lawsuit filed against Tyson Foods, Inc.

As part of the settlement, Tyson Foods will donate approximately 1.7 million pounds of chicken to food banks throughout Illinois, with a retail value of approximately \$2.3 million dollars. This donation will provide more than 1.38 million meals and will help to feed more than 900,000 people throughout the state.

Distribution of the chicken will be coordinated by Feeding Illinois. "This donation could not have come at a better time," said Frank Finnegan, Executive Director of the St. Louis Area Food Bank. "With the downturn in the economy, people who once donated to food pantries are now finding themselves in need of assistance.

Amie Hyman, Executive Director of Feeding Illinois, also underscored the importance of the donation. "Overall, need at food banks has increased nearly 30% across the nation, and Illinois is no exception," Hyman said. Some of our food banks in Illinois are seeing increases in visits to pantries or soup kitchens of 35 per cent and higher." Hyman indicated that the chicken will be distributed among the eight food bank members in Feeding Illinois where it will be made available to more than 2,000 community feeding programs. "I can't say enough about how important and timely this is," added Hyman.