

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:  
Barbara Schmith (Executive Director)  
Woodridge Community Pantry  
(630) 512-9921**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **Woodridge ‘Sets the Bar’ for Community Pantries**

(Woodridge, IL – February 9, 2010) The Woodridge Community Pantry was proclaimed as “setting the bar” for community pantries by a USDA executive during an official visit last week.

The esteemed group, visiting from Washington D.C., was there to assess the pantry’s Emergency Food Stamp Program. Among the group were Lisa Pino, USDA Deputy Administrator for SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program); Audrey Rowe, USDA Deputy Administrator for Special Nutrition Programs; Susan Holzer, USDA Midwest Region Chief for SNAP; Alan Rebok, Bureau Chief of the Illinois Department of Human Services; and Elizabeth Donovan, Agency Services Director for Northern Illinois Food Bank.

The Woodridge Community Pantry made an overwhelming positive impact on the USDA executives. Audrey Rowe, who oversees the school feeding and government commodities programs, stated she had visited many food banks in her career, but she had never visited a place where clients were treated with such dignity.

Rowe was impressed that the pantry was clean, well-stocked and organized, with items efficiently displayed. She also noted that the pantry offers its clients fresh meat, milk, eggs, cheese, and a large selection of fruits and vegetables.

Additionally, Rowe took time from her busy schedule to work with volunteers, including fulfilling an order and assisting staff at a client table. When leaving, she complimented all present, and told them that the Woodridge Community Pantry “set the bar” for pantry operations.

The Woodridge Community Pantry works to eradicate hunger and improve the quality of life for local residents and surrounding communities. To learn more, visit online at [www.wcpinc.org](http://www.wcpinc.org), or call (630) 512-9921.

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Caption for attached photo: (From left) Barbara Schmith, Executive Director of the Woodridge Community Pantry; Lisa Pino, USDA Deputy Administrator for SNAP; Audrey Rowe, USDA Deputy Administrator for Special Nutrition Programs