



## Illinois Department of **Natural Resources**

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Pat Quinn, Governor  
Marc Miller, Director

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### **“Target Hunger Now!” Initiative returns to Chicagoland**

*Program provides food banks with venison and fish for families in need*

CHICAGO, IL— The Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) is bringing its new and popular humanitarian program “Target Hunger Now!” back to Chicagoland this week to help feed those in need. “Target Hunger Now!” (THN) provides food banks throughout the state with venison donated by Illinois hunters and soon, with fish from Illinois waterways.

The THN program first kicked off in September and served over 400 meals to families in Aurora and Maywood. This month, the THN program is expanding its reach by serving protein rich venison chilli to hundreds of children, adults and families at St. Sylvester’s Parish St. Sylvester’s Church, 2157 N. Humboldt Blvd., Chicago, from 5-7 p.m. on October 26 and at the New Mount Olive Baptist Church, 15643 Wood Street in Harvey, Illinois, on October 27 from 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.

“The Target Hunger Now program was so successful on its first few missions that we couldn’t wait to bring it to new areas of our state,” said IDNR Director Marc Miller. “Over the last few weeks, the response from other communities interested in the program has been overwhelming and we are happy to do all we can to help those who need it.”

The Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) is coordinating the program to encourage hunters to donate to the program whole deer for processing into ground venison. The IDNR will also be working with commercial fishing operations to provide abundant Mississippi River Asian carp for processing into high-protein, ready-to-prepare servings later this year.

The “Target Hunger Now!” effort to feed hungry Illinois families builds on the success of the Illinois Sportsmen Against Hunger program, which has provided hundreds of thousands of pounds of venison, donated by hunters, to Illinois food banks during the last 15 years. These programs would not be possible without the help of Illinois hunters who donate deer meat and meat processors who help the IDNR every year.

Comcast of Chicago is also helping lead the charge as a media sponsor of the program.

“Comcast is committed to making a difference in the communities where our employees and our customers live and work,” said LeAnn Talbot, Senior Vice President for Comcast’s Greater Chicago Region. “We’re proud to support the efforts of ‘Target Hunger Now!’ to help ensure that food banks across the state are well-stocked with food and well-staffed with volunteers.”

Assistance to food banks is much needed in Illinois. Statistics from the USDA suggest nearly a half-million children in the state are in households facing food insecurity. More than 1.6 million individuals and 756,000 households participated in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program in February 2010, an increase of 14 percent from last year. Nearly 2 million Illinois children were enrolled in the National School Lunch Program during the last school year.

The IDNR hopes thousands of pounds of fish can be processed regularly along with the distribution of 100,000 pounds of donated venison this year as part of “Target Hunger Now!”

Partners with the IDNR on “Target Hunger Now!” include Comcast, the Beta Club of Illinois, the Illinois Conservation Foundation, [FeedingIllinois.org](http://FeedingIllinois.org), and the Illinois Sportsmen Against Hunger program. Individuals, companies or others interested in supporting the program can contact the IDNR at 217/785-0075.