

## ***NorState FCU donates more than \$16,000 to local area Food Pantries***

February 26, 2010

**MADAWASKA** - Volunteers from all food pantries from Van Buren to Eagle Lake gathered on Thursday, February 25<sup>th</sup>, along with NorState Federal Credit Union Ending Hunger coordinators to be recognized for their efforts to raise awareness and continued service to people of the St. John Valley.

Denise Cote, NorState Marketing Director welcomed volunteers and coordinators and thanked them for their volunteered time and efforts toward keeping local pantries well stocked; collecting food at drop off sites throughout the Valley and delivery of food to families throughout the year.

“You are the unsung heroes, praised Cote.

You continually strive to provide food for our friends and neighbors.

Today, NorState and the Maine Credit Union League recognize your efforts. We acknowledge the commitment of your local organizations and the mutual interest of credit unions, to raise awareness and money in the fight against hunger. Credit union members and employees who so generously give towards local relief efforts provide much needed assistance and are a true example of the credit union’s cooperative nature. Credit unions and volunteers have something in common, and that’s People Helping People.”

Denise introduced NorState Ending Hunger lead coordinator Augie Parent along with branch ending hunger representatives who were in attendance.

Denise also introduced Jennifer Pelletier from the St. John Valley Times. NorState’s partnership with the Valley Times has resulted in a hugely successful area-wide food drive each year.

Many volunteers expressed their appreciation for this food drive, stating that without the efforts of these two partners, the supply of food items at the pantries would not be nearly as plentiful.

Certificates of appreciation, along with monetary donations to the individual food pantries, were presented by NorState CEO, David Rossignol.

“The Maine State Ending Hunger Awareness Campaign raised \$375,923.93 in 2009, a new record, stated Rossignol.

NorState was second highest in total funds raised in the state for the Ending Hunger campaign. That is something we all can be very proud of.

Here at NorState, we raised over \$15,500 throughout our six branches in 2009 and an additional \$13,300 value was contributed directly to ending hunger organizations throughout local communities thanks to the collection of non-perishable food items.

NorState will be donating a total of \$16,970 to local food collection organizations today, thanks in part to Maine Credit Union Leagues Ending Hunger campaign, our member’s generosity and continued support as well as our continued commitment to this cause.”

The Maine Credit Union League grants additional funds to augment local efforts.

“So the more we raise, the more we get back from the League and the more NorState can contribute to local food pantries,” added Cote.

NorState Federal Credit Union is 12,500+ members strong and is located in Madawaska, Eagle Lake, Van Buren, Fort Kent, Ashland and Presque Isle.

*(see photo, page 2)*



**NORSTATE EFFORTS TO END HUNGER IN THE VALLEY** - Pictured from left to right are David Rossignol, NFCU President; Renee Burgess and Cheryl Beaulieu, Van Buren branch EH Coordinators; Mike Bouchard, St. Peter Chanel Food Pantry; Beverly Thibodeau, St. Joseph's/St. Agatha Food Pantries; Rose M. McQuarrie, St. Luce Food Pantry; Patricia Daigle, Notre Dame du Mont-Carmel (Madawaska) Food Pantry; Carmen Daigle, St. Gerard/Mt. Carmel Food Pantry; Jeannine Haley, Fort Kent's Ecumecial Food Pantry; Rolande Gervais, Notre Dame du Mont-Carmel (St. David) Food Pantry; Thomas Labbe, Eagle Lake Food Pantry; Augie Parent, NorState's Ending Hunger Director; Elizabeth Guimond, Eagle Lake branch EH Coordinator; Claire Thibeault, Fort Kent's branch EH Coordinator and Jennifer Pelletier, SJVT representative. Also in attendance were: Denise Cote, NFCU; Ronald Gervais and John Daigle, Madawaska; Laurette Doucette, Grand Isle; Skip McQuarrie, Frenchville and Adrienne Lamore, Fort Kent.