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Contact: Amy Rutledge
Director- Corporate Communications
Minnesota Power/ALLETE
218-723-7400
arutledge@mnpower.com

Minnesota Power donates \$10,000 to local nonprofits, will match up to \$25,000 in employee food shelf donations to help feed people in need

Duluth, Minn. — Five nonprofits working to keep food on the table for children and adults in need are getting a helping hand from Minnesota Power.

Minnesota Power's donation of \$10,000 will be divided equally among CHUM, Life House, Union Gospel Mission, Damiano Center and American Indian Community Housing Organization (AICHO). The nonprofits are all in or near downtown Duluth and operate food shelves or meal programs.

"This is traditionally the season of giving, and in that spirit we wanted to provide some extra support for our nonprofit neighbors in downtown Duluth that work so hard during the holidays and throughout the year to help lift our community and assist those in need," said Bethany Owen, ALLETE chair, president and CEO. "The ongoing issue of food insecurity is even more heightened this time of year when so many of our celebrations and diverse traditions center on gathering with family and friends for meals. We hope this donation will make a meaningful difference to our downtown nonprofits and the people they serve."

Owen announced the donation this evening during the company's "Light Up the Plaza" holiday lighting event on Lake Superior Plaza just before the Christmas City of the North Parade. The \$10,000 donation is in addition to an ongoing matching gift challenge by the Minnesota Power Foundation called Feeding Our Communities to support food banks that serve communities where ALLETE operates. The Foundation will match employee donations to food banks up to \$25,000 through Nov. 30.

Scott Van Daele, director of distributive service for CHUM, said he learned about Minnesota Power's donation to CHUM and the other four downtown Duluth nonprofits just as he was preparing to purchase some much-needed basic pantry items for his nonprofit's food shelf.

"Thanks a million for thinking of us and our hungry neighbors," Van Daele said. "We haven't seen peanut butter in weeks, so this will make an immediate impact."

Also tonight, Owen announced a \$2,000 donation to the Never Surrender organization dedicated to fighting ALS. The donation is in honor of the late Senator Dave Tomassoni who will serve as the Christmas City of the North Parade's in-memoriam grand marshal.

More information about Never Surrender and the nonprofits can be found on their websites.

CHUM - <https://www.chumduluth.org/chumfoodshelf.htm>

Life House - <https://lifeliveduluth.org/>

Union Gospel Mission - <https://duluth-ugm.org/>

Damiano Center - <https://www.damianocenter.org/programs>

American Indian Community Housing Organization (AICHO) - <https://www.aicho.org/food-distribution.html#/>

Never Surrender

<https://www.neversurrenderinc.org>



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