

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Students collect over 58,113.25 for Winnipeg Harvest in support of 10th Annual Operation Donation!

WINNIPEG, March 23, 2009 – Winnipeg Harvest released the final results from Operation Donation today. **113** Manitoba Schools collected over **58,113.25** pounds of food in support of the **10th Annual Operation Donation**.

The weeklong food drive took place from March 2 – 6 and was supported by The Manitoba Teachers' Society, Manitoba Public Insurance and matched by Peak of the Market. Manitoba Public Insurance offices collected **2,211.70** pounds of food as part of the campaign. Peak of the Market supports the student's efforts by matching what was donated pound for pound in fresh vegetables and is making a donation of **60,324.95**. The **Operation Donation Campaign total is 120,649.90 pounds**.

Across Manitoba schools from K-12 assist Winnipeg Harvest by collecting non-perishable food items, including, baby food, tuna, soup, canned vegetables, fruit and pasta, and much more. **Over the last 10 years, Manitoba students and teachers have collected 582,196 lbs of food for Manitoba families in need.**

"Events like Operation Donation take on an even greater importance in these tough economic times," says Bruce Michalski Interim General Manager, Winnipeg Harvest. "We thank all those who supported the program, especially the students, The Manitoba Teacher's Society, Manitoba Public Insurance, and Peak of the Market for supporting our mission to fight hunger. This partnership continues to grow each year and to see the generosity of so many to assist those who otherwise would go hungry is a testament of our caring community."

"We're grateful to the students of Manitoba for making Operation Donation a success," says Pat Isaak, The Manitoba Teachers' Society. "We also realize that Operation Donation could never reach the heights it has without the support of their teachers. Where there is hope and compassion you will find teachers. They model so well, the qualities they want their students to learn."

"Operation Donation is proof that strong partnerships can make a difference for many families," said MaryAnn Kempe, Vice President Human Resources and Public Affairs, Manitoba Public Insurance. "Manitoba Public Insurance and its employees believe strongly in helping our community and have supported Operation Donation since its inception."

Winnipeg Harvest is a non-profit charitable organization and feeds over 40,000 individuals each month over half are children. Winnipeg Harvest continues to feed hungry families month after month, meal after meal through over 300 partner agencies across Manitoba. All donations collected in Manitoba remain in Manitoba for local distribution. For more information about Winnipeg Harvest, please visit, www.winnipegharvest.org.

-30-

For more information please contact:

Jacquie Johnson- Weight
Communications Coordinator
Winnipeg Harvest
204-982-3584 Office
Email: media@winnipegharvest.org