

NEWS RELEASE



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Minnesota Grocers Association Awards 16 Minnesota Companies for Efforts to Fight Hunger

MGA Hunger Campaign Donated Over 47 Million Meals Since 2008

St. Paul, MN – March 17, 2026 – The Minnesota Grocers Association (MGA) has announced the Silver Plate Award winners of its 2025 Bag Hunger Campaign contest. The contest is part of a statewide campaign coordinated annually by the MGA that engages grocery retailers, vendor partners, and customers in the fight to end hunger in their local communities. The 2025 Bag Hunger Campaign is donating \$16,500 to neighborhood hunger relief partners all across the state. This year alone, the organized efforts of the campaign and its participating companies reached their goal and collectively raised over 1.9 million meals. Since 2008, participants in the MGA's hunger campaign programs have provided over 47 million meals to hungry families in Minnesota.

The Bag Hunger Campaign brings together retail members, vendor partners, and community hunger relief organizations to help fill the plates of those in need across the state. Participating stores and vendors offered multiple ways for customers to support the campaign. Some stores encouraged shoppers to donate grocery items in-store or round up their purchase totals at the register, contributing the difference to help feed local families. Others recognized donors by displaying their names on shopping list icons throughout their stores.

“The success of the Bag Hunger Campaign is driven by the extraordinary generosity and commitment of our members, vendor partners, community food support organizations, and, most importantly, Minnesota’s grocery customers,” said Patrick Garofalo, president of the Minnesota Grocers Association. “The enthusiasm and dedication shown by everyone involved are truly inspiring. Grocers are proud to serve their communities and to be part of this collective effort to fight hunger across Minnesota. Congratulations to our Silver Plate Award winners and Campaign Champions for their creative, engaging, and impactful contributions.”

The winners of the Silver Plate Awards created in-store displays that best depicted the campaign's theme to Bag Hunger in their neighborhood. Displays were required to use a combination of in-store advertising and vendor products. In addition to the award, each winning company will receive \$1,000 to donate to the food charity of its choice on behalf of the Bag Hunger Campaign. The **Best Creative Partnership** Silver Plates were awarded to a vendor and retailer who teamed up to create a display with a central theme that educated consumers about the fight to end hunger.

This year's winning partnerships were:

Festival Foods, Andover and **KEMPS**
Kowalski's Market and **Russ Davis Wholesale**
Mackenthun's Fine Foods and **KEMPS**

Best Campaign Execution Silver Plate was awarded company-wide to **Jerry's Foods, Eden Prairie.**

Best Innovative Marketing Silver Plate was awarded to **Chris' Food Center, Sandstone.**

Best Community Hunger Support Silver Plate was awarded to **Super One Foods/Miner's, Inc.**

As part of the program's ongoing efforts to make meaningful impacts in the communities we serve, participating companies were also given the chance to be awarded **Campaign Champions**. These companies receive will receive \$500 to donate to the food charity of their choice on behalf of the Bag Hunger Campaign.

This year's Campaign Champions were:

Crystal Farms Dairy
Cub Foods
Lunds & Byerlys
Post Consumer Brands
Prairie Farms Dairy
Teal's Market

***The Minnesota Grocers Association (MGA)** is the only state trade association that represents the food industry of Minnesota from farm to fork. We are one of the oldest trade associations in the state, celebrating over 125 years of advancing industry. We have over 300 retail, manufacturers, and wholesale members supporting nearly 1,300 locations statewide. Our member companies employ over 150,000 union and non-union Minnesotans. We actively advance the common interest of all those engaged in any aspect of the retail food industry as a leader and advocate in government affairs.*

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