

NEWS RELEASE



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Minnesota Grocers Association Presents Bipartisan Bag-Off Winner Representative Kurt Daudt with Donation to Helping Hands of Zion Lutheran Church

St. Paul, MN – September 18, 2019 – The Minnesota Grocers Association (MGA) presented the Helping Hands of Zion Lutheran Church Food Shelf \$1,000 on behalf of Representative Kurt Daudt who won the Third Annual Minnesota Grocers Association Bipartisan Bag-off.

The 2019 Bipartisan Bag-off was held at the State Capitol and highlighted the impact the Minnesota food industry has on serving consumers, providing careers, and investing in its communities. Representative Kurt Daudt, Senator Paul Gazelka, Senator Jeff Hayden, and Representative Fue Lee competed to be the Capitol's Best Bagger. They were judged by a panel of MGA members based on speed, distribution of weight between the bags, and proper bagging technique, along with style, attitude, and appearance. The Minnesota Department of Commerce Commissioner Steve Kelley was the "official weigher" to ensure accuracy. Representative Daudt won the competition for the second time and took home the trophy.

"The food industry is an important part of main street Minnesota, and I was incredibly proud to be part of an event that showcases the important job of bagging groceries," said Daudt. "It was exciting to bring the trophy back to our caucus and be able to present this donation to the Helping Hands of Zion Lutheran Church Food Shelf. Partnerships like this bring home the value of the work we do at the Capitol."

"Our annual Bipartisan Bag-Off is a great showcase of the outstanding work of the food industry of Minnesota. It also highlights our appreciation for the partnerships we value with our elected officials," said Jamie Pfuhl, President of the MGA. "This donation, made today on behalf of our 2019 winner Representation Kurt Daudt, is a positive example of what can happen for our communities when we all work together."

"The economic realities that face many Minnesota families today sometimes mean cutting corners and seeking help for our most basic needs," said Carl Bay of Helping Hands. "More than ever, food shelves need the support of their communities to keep up with demand. We appreciate Representative Daudt and the Minnesota Grocers Association for their support of our community."

Helping Hands, housed in Zion Lutheran Church of Crown, is a food shelf for people in need from Crown and the local community. Their goal is to simply "give a helping hand" in a small way to those in our community who are in need. This food shelf is stocked by members of Zion Lutheran Church of Crown and by the families of children that attend Crown Christian School.

The Minnesota Grocers Association 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 120 years of advancing industry. We have over 300 retail, manufacture, 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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Pictured: Jamie Pfuhl (MGA President), Dan Sladek (Jim's Market), Carol Bray (Helping Hands Food Shelf), and Representative Kurt Daudt