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HEADLINE: Peace Center Earns HSM Blue Ribbon Food Shelf© Initiative Seal

Sub-head: 2008 is inaugural year for newly developed evaluation tool

Peace Center, Inc., Food and Clothing Distribution Center located in New Prague, announces that it has been awarded the Hunger Solutions Minnesota's (HSM) Blue Ribbon Food Shelf© Initiative Seal, demonstrating that it meets the standards of excellence for Minnesota food shelves.

Food shelves in Minnesota may earn the HSM Blue Ribbon Food Shelf© Initiative Seal by voluntarily completing the self- assessment tool. The HSM Blue Ribbon Food Shelf© Initiative is available to food shelves in Minnesota and addresses the organization's performance in nine key areas: mission, governance, technology, food, operations, financial client services, volunteers, and community.

"The Blue Ribbon initiative was introduced at the annual food shelf conference that Peace Center volunteer Peg Wermerskirchen and I attended last fall," stated Noreen Seurer, Peace Center director. "Although participation was voluntary, we were encouraged to complete the evaluation tool to see if we were doing all we could do for our clients."

The concept behind the HSM Blue Ribbon Food Shelf© Initiative was to produce an evaluative tool that gives recognition to food shelves that offer excellent service to their community. By participating, food shelves demonstrate responsibility, integrity, and transparency to their constituents.

Peace Center Inc. is now listed as a Blue Ribbon Food Shelf on the HSM website. After having thoroughly reviewed the food shelf's responses to the tool, as well as their supporting documentation, HSM believes that donors and supporters of Peace Center can feel confident that the food shelf is working effectively and efficiently to meet the needs of their community. Supporters can also be confident that when someone uses Peace Center, they will be treated with dignity and respect.

"We modified Queen of Peace Hospital's Mission Statement to fit Peace Center – To serve those in need as if they were Christ Himself," Noreen concluded. "We could not fulfill our mission without the generosity of the entire New Prague community. Last year alone we served nearly 1,000 families, distributing more than 68,000 pounds of food."

Peace Center is staffed entirely by Queen of Peace Hospital Auxiliary volunteers and is open Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, from 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. For more information, call the Peace Center at 952-758-4688 or call Noreen 952-758-8190. Or visit our website at [www.queenofpeacehospital.com/auxiliary](http://www.queenofpeacehospital.com/auxiliary).