

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Tornado Devastates Kankakee Region as Midwest Food Bank Mobilizes Emergency Food and Relief Supplies

LOCATION, ST. – Midwest Food Bank is responding to a destructive tornado and severe storms that struck the Kankakee, Illinois area on the evening of March 10, 2026, leaving widespread damage across Kankakee County and extending into northwest Indiana. The powerful storm system produced multiple suspected tornadoes, destructive winds, and unusually large hail, damaging homes, businesses, and critical infrastructure while leaving thousands without power.

In response, Midwest Food Bank is partnering with regional relief organizations to provide essential supplies to families and first responders working in the impacted areas.

“We respond to disasters, so families don’t have to face the aftermath alone,” said John Cirilli, Executive Director at Midwest Food Bank in Morton. “Our teams are working alongside trusted partners to quickly move food, water, and essential supplies into the communities that need them most.”

Impact on the Community

A powerful storm system moved through central Illinois and into northwest Indiana on the evening of March 10, 2026, producing tornadoes, destructive winds, and unusually large hail. The severe weather caused widespread damage across Kankakee County and surrounding areas, leaving homes and businesses damaged, causing power outages across the region, and prompting emergency crews to respond to multiple incidents.

As communities begin assessing the damage, local agencies and nonprofit organizations are mobilizing to support residents affected by the storms.

Midwest Food Bank is working with local partners to provide immediate relief supplies. Through a partnership with the Salvation Army, a shipment of critical resources is being prepared that includes:

- 300 food boxes containing essential shelf-stable meals
- 300 hygiene kits with personal care supplies for displaced families

A relief truck will depart tomorrow at 7:30 a.m. for Elk Grove Village, Illinois, where supplies will be staged and distributed to impacted communities through regional response partners.

Additional relief efforts are currently being coordinated as damage assessments continue. More response activities are expected in the coming days, and further updates will be shared as information becomes available.

How You Can Help

For those who wish to help, financial donations give Midwest Food Bank the flexibility to quickly and efficiently respond to the needs of the victims. To help cover the cost of the supplies or fuel needed to transport them, visit midwestfoodbank.org/relief to donate. You may also text @MFB to 52014 to donate. Together, we can provide hope and help to those in need.

Midwest Food Bank was founded in 2003 on the Kieser family farm in rural McLean County, Illinois. Partner non-profit agencies receive food from MFB at no cost. MFB, the largest food bank in the U.S., has 10 domestic locations serving 29 states. There are also two international locations, East Africa and Haiti. For more information about Midwest Food Bank (your Location), please visit their website at midwestfoodbank.org.

Midwest Food Bank (“MFB”) is a private, non-profit 501(c)(3) charity. As a faith-based organization, it is the mission of Midwest Food Bank to share the love of Christ by alleviating hunger and malnutrition and providing disaster relief. Our vision is to serve those in need with excellence, providing physical and spiritual nourishment.

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If you would like more information about this topic, please contact John Cirilli at PHONE or jcirilli@midwestfoodbank.org