



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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5TH BRIDGE SEEKING VOLUNTEERS TO FEED HUNGRY
Feed My Starving Children's Mobile Unit Coming to Northfield

NORTHFIELD, MINN. (November 6, 2007) – The entire Northfield community is invited to share in a very special holiday volunteer project coordinated by 5th Bridge, a local nonprofit dedicated to encouraging habits of volunteerism and philanthropy. For three days, beginning Friday, December 7, 5th Bridge will sponsor Feed My Starving Children's mobile food packing unit. The organization's goal is to involve at least 500 volunteers in packing 100,000 meals for starving children across the globe.

5th Bridge Executive Director Candy Taylor said, "This is the first time 5th Bridge has brought such a large-scale volunteer project to Northfield, and we couldn't be more pleased with the way it has been embraced by residents of all ages." She continued, "We're hoping this will become an annual event – something that becomes a part of each family's holiday tradition."

Feed My Starving Children, a nonprofit headquartered in Brooklyn Park, Minn., has a life-giving mission that strives to package healthy meals and distribute them to malnourished children in nearly 50 countries around the world. The organization relies heavily on volunteers from across the greater Twin Cities area to pack the food and raise funds to support the \$.15 cost of each meal.

Taylor continued, "Since our founding in 2006, we've met regularly to discuss the best way to engage the community in a fun and meaningful service project. When someone suggested bringing Feed My Starving Children to town, the idea was met with immediate support. We've set our goals high – packing 100,000 meals and raising \$15,000 to pay for the meals is a huge task – but we're excited to see residents come together and make a local and global impact."

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5th Bridge will bring Feed My Starving Children's mobile unit to Northfield for three days next month: Friday, December 7, Saturday, December 8, and Sunday, December 9. Residents of all ages are encouraged to form groups of 15 and volunteer for a two-hour time slot during one of these days. Individuals are also welcome to contribute their time as well. The event will be held downtown at the Northfield Armory (519 Division Street).

Taylor said, "We're looking to involve hundreds of people in this project... from volunteers to financial sponsors, pulling this off really will be a city-wide effort."

In addition to on-site volunteer support, 5th Bridge is looking to organizations, individuals and businesses across the community to help fund the project. Some efforts currently underway include students throughout the district collecting quarters, an appeal to businesses to donate a penny for each meal packed and a request to individuals to sponsor an individual volunteer or a team of 15 volunteers.

For more information about Feed My Starving Children service opportunities, contact Cheryl Mathison, 5th Bridge FMSC volunteer coordinator, at 507-645-5408. For information about fundraising, contact Justin Stets, 5th Bridge board member and 5th Bridge's FMSC fundraising coordinator, at 507-645-8887 or e-mail fmsc@5thbridge.org.

Founded in 2006, 5th Bridge has set out to foster a culture of volunteerism and community engagement in Northfield and the surrounding region. By providing tools and resources needed to share ideas and information, celebrating acts of kindness, and providing conduits whereby citizens and organizations can communicate, 5th Bridge aspires to support and empower the Northfield community toward acts of volunteerism and philanthropy. For more information about volunteerism or 5th Bridge, visit www.5thbridge.org.

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