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**EDINA REALTY FOUNDATION AWARDS \$20,000**

Edina, Minn.—Nov. 9, 2009 —The Edina Realty Foundation has awarded \$20,000 in grants to Catholic Charities and Union Gospel Mission Twin Cities in honor of National Homelessness Awareness Week, Nov. 15-21. Each organization will receive \$10,000 to help provide Thanksgiving meals and stock Minnesota's food shelves.

“As Thanksgiving approaches, we want to set an example by sharing our good fortune with people in our community who are hungry, homeless or in need,” said Barb Jandric, Edina Realty general sales manager.

With its purchasing power, Catholic Charities' Kate Kelly said that the \$10,000 Foundation grant will allow them to buy up to \$90,000 worth of food for its food shelves. “In September, one of our food shelves recorded a 91 percent increase in the number of visits compared with last year,” said Kelly, Catholic Charities' director of Corporate Foundation Relations. “The generous contribution of the Edina Realty Foundation will help us provide food for the increasing number of people who need help feeding their families.” For more information about Catholic Charities, visit [www.cctwincities.org](http://www.cctwincities.org).

Union Gospel Mission's Barbara Martenson said that the Edina Realty Foundation grant will help them to purchase nearly 5,000 of the 35,000 Thanksgiving meals for people in need throughout the Twin Cities area. “We will see a cross-section of humanity, not only the homeless who regularly fill our emergency dorm beds,” said Martenson, major donor officer at Union Gospel Mission. “It is our privilege to serve them all.” For more information about Union Gospel Mission, visit [www.ugmtc.org](http://www.ugmtc.org).

Founded in 1996, the Edina Realty Foundation gives financial support to organizations that provide housing and related services such as counseling and medical care to homeless children, families and individuals. To date, the Foundation has raised more than \$5.4 million. The majority of funds – 97.5 percent – go directly to grant recipients. For more information about the Edina Realty Foundation, visit [www.edinarealty.com](http://www.edinarealty.com).

According to the National Law Center on Homelessness and Poverty, an estimated 3.5 million people are homeless in the U.S. And due to the recent foreclosures crisis, homelessness has been on the rise.

**About The Edina Realty Foundation**

The Edina Realty Foundation is a non-for-profit, private foundation supported through donated funds and volunteer time by Edina Realty sales associates, employees, and the Edina Realty Home Services family of companies. The Foundation offers financial support to non-profit organizations that provide housing and related services to homeless families throughout Minnesota, western Wisconsin and Fargo, N.D. For more information, visit [www.edinarealty.com](http://www.edinarealty.com).