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## **Land O'Lakes Donates 120,000 Pounds of Macaroni and Cheese to Three Food Banks as part of First Run Program**

January 14, 2013 -- Land O'Lakes recently donated 120,000 pounds of LAND O LAKES® Macaroni & Cheese to three food banks across the United States to feed those in need of assistance. The food banks that received the donations were Feeding South Dakota, Long Island Cares and The Idaho Foodbank.

According to Matt Gassen, executive director of Feeding South Dakota, first run products are rare for non-profit organizations.

“This semi load of first run product will help to put a great-tasting and top-quality food product onto the dinner tables of thousands of struggling families,” said Gassen. “To receive a donation of this magnitude from a member-owned company like Land O'Lakes is humbling to us and demonstrates the commitment that those who provide food for the world also care about those who struggle with food insecurity. Besides being a great corporate partner to us they are an equally important corporate citizen in our state”.

The food banks expressed their appreciation for such a large donation of 40,000 pounds each of a first-run product – not a product about to expire, and one that is suitable for entire families. The macaroni & cheese will be distributed to families in need in the next couple of weeks. This donation came at a great time for the Long Island Cares food bank in NY, as families are still struggling to get on their feet after Superstorm Sandy.

The First Run program is part of Land O'Lakes larger Feeding Our Communities initiative – a program dedicated to helping alleviate hunger locally, nationally and internationally. The program was introduced in 2010 to increase the amount of product donated to food banks across the country. This is the third year of the program, for which Land O'Lakes has committed to donating truckloads of fresh product to several food banks each quarter. To date, Land O'Lakes has made 49 donations to food banks across the United States, totaling over 1.8 million pounds of product.

“As a national, farmer-owned cooperative, Land O'Lakes is committed to helping the growing number of people struggling to put food on their table,” said Land O'Lakes Foundation Executive Director Lydia Botham. “The ‘First Run’ program provides a unique opportunity for Land O'Lakes to provide a fresh, nutritious product to families who can enjoy it.”

For more information on any of these programs, visit the Land O'Lakes Foundation Web page at [www.landolakesinc.com](http://www.landolakesinc.com).