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Contact: Amy Rutledge  
Manager—Corporate Communications  
218-723-7400  
Cell: 218-348-2961  
arutledge@mnpower.com

# ***Media Advisory***

## **Minnesota Power Foundation gives grants to Falls Hunger Coalition and Backus Community Center**

Duluth, Minn.—The Minnesota Power Foundation is giving grants totaling \$10,000 to two organizations serving International Falls. The Falls Hunger Coalition received \$5,000 and the Backus Community Center also received \$5,000.

International Falls Mayor Bob Anderson said Friday the grants are very much appreciated by a community that is working its way through the effects caused by the loss of more than 250 jobs at the Boise paper mill.

Anderson was among those on hand Thursday when Minnesota Power employees Bruce Overson, Doug King and Kristin Renskers were in International Falls to present the grants to the two organizations.

Peggy Hanson, Minnesota Power Foundation director, said the grants reflect Minnesota Power's commitment to the communities it serves.

"We truly care about the communities and customers we serve," Hanson said. "We're proud partners to the region, committed to the economic health of our communities, and we hope this contribution will, in a small way, help residents as the community moves toward recovery."

Nancy Anderson, executive director of the Falls Hunger Coalition, said the \$5,000 is "a wonderful, wonderful gift" and couldn't have come at a better time for the organization. Although the coalition hasn't seen a dramatic increase in clients yet, it has experienced a significant decrease in donations, she said.

The \$5,000 grant to Backus Community Center will be used to support its programs. Hundreds of people regularly use the center, which is a home to arts, cultural and youth programs as well as services such as the Community Café and the Backus Kids Club.

### **Help paying heating bills:**

Minnesota Power customers who have questions about fuel or heating assistance this winter should call customer service at 800-228-4966 or visit [mnpower.com](http://mnpower.com) to learn more about MP's CARE program (Customer Affordability of Residential Electricity) and the Cold Weather Rule.

### **PHOTO CAPTIONS**

#### **Photo 1:**

**From left: Kristin Renskers, Minnesota Power; Nancy Anderson, Falls Hunger Coalition executive director; Bruce Overson, Minnesota Power; Brittany Rognerud, assistant director; Doug King, Minnesota Power; and International Falls Mayor Bob Anderson. The Minnesota Power Foundation gave \$5,000 to the Falls Hunger Coalition.**

#### **Photo 2:**

**From left: International Falls Mayor Bob Anderson; Kristin Renskers, Minnesota Power; Bruce Overson, Minnesota Power; Marcia Bringedahl, board member; Julie Bartkowski, president; and Doug King, Minnesota Power. The Minnesota Power Foundation gave \$5,000 to the Backus Community Center.**

*Minnesota Power provides electric service within a 26,000-square-mile area in northeastern Minnesota, supporting comfort, security and quality of life for 143,000 customers, 16 municipalities and some of the largest industrial customers in the United States. More information can be found at [www.mnpower.com](http://www.mnpower.com).*

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