

## **County Receives Funds for Emergency Food Programs**

Vernon County has been chosen to receive \$16,289 to supplement emergency food and shelter programs in the county.

The selection was made by a national board that is chaired by the Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency and consists of representatives from American Red Cross, Catholic Charities, USA; National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA; the Salvation Army; United Jewish Communities; and United Way of America. The local board was charged to distribute funds appropriated by Congress to help expand the capacity of food and shelter programs in high-need areas around the country.

A local board made up of Vernon County Department of Human Services, Viroqua, Good Samaritan Food Pantry, Hillsboro, Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Westby, Living Faith Church, Viroqua, New Hope United Methodist Church, De Soto, Catholic Charities, and representatives of other Vernon County organizations, will determine how funds awarded to Vernon County are to be distributed among the emergency food and shelter programs run by local service organizations in the area. The local board is responsible for recommending agencies to receive these funds and any additional funds available under this phase of the program.

Under the terms of the grant from the national board, local agencies chosen to receive funds must: 1) be private voluntary nonprofits or units of government; 2) have an accounting system; 3) practice nondiscrimination 4) have demonstrated the capability to deliver emergency food and/or shelter assistance; and 5) if they are a private voluntary organization, they must have a voluntary board. Qualifying agencies are urged to apply.

Public or private voluntary agencies interested in applying for Emergency Food and Shelter Program funds must attend the February 25, 2010 1:00 p.m. meeting at the Erlandson Building Human Services Office at 318 Fairlane Drive in Viroqua. If you have questions, please call Pamela Eitland at (608) 637-5210.