OPERATION FULL PLATE

DISTRIBUTION RESULTS & PROGRAM STEWARDSHIP

REPORT TYPE	Partner / Funder Report	**DISTRIBUTION ID**	STC-2026-09-17
DATE	September 17, 2026	**LOCATION**	St. Cloud VA Medical Center – Building 96

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

DAV of Minnesota's second Operation Full Plate distribution served 102 households representing 236 people at the St. Cloud VA Medical Center. 137 boxes totaling 2,945.5 pounds of nonperishable food were distributed. The food carried an actual wholesale cost of $2,512.53 and a recognized value of $5,596.45, delivering $2.23 in recognized food value for every dollar spent. Compared with the August launch event, household reach increased 52% and the number of people represented increased 75%.

IMPACT AT A GLANCE

102	236	137	2,945.5
HOUSEHOLDS SERVED	PEOPLE REPRESENTED	BOXES DISTRIBUTED	POUNDS DISTRIBUTED

SEPTEMBER GROWTH VS. LAUNCH EVENT

+52%	+75%	+63%	+63%
HOUSEHOLDS	PEOPLE	BOXES	POUNDS

PARTICIPANT REACH

WHO WAS SERVED		COST AND REACH MEASURES	
Veterans	96	Food per household	28.9 lb
Veteran family members	5	Actual food cost per household	$24.63
Current service members	1	Recognized value per household	$54.87
Service member family members	0	Average household size	2.31 people
Female Veterans	27	Boxes per household	1.34

FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

$2,512.53	$5,596.45	$1,034.80	$2.23
ACTUAL WHOLESALE COST food distributed	**RECOGNIZED FOOD VALUE** @ $1.90 per pound	**EST. VOLUNTEER LABOR VALUE** 26 volunteer hours	**VALUE PER $1 SPENT** recognized food value
$4,053.05	**$9,027.85**	**$4,019.80**	**$13,047.65**
PROGRAM-TO-DATE FOOD COST 221 boxes distributed	**PROGRAM-TO-DATE FOOD VALUE** 4,751.5 pounds distributed	**PROGRAM-TO-DATE VOLUNTEER VALUE** 101 volunteer hours	**Total Program Value** program to date

Interpretation: September recognized food value exceeded actual wholesale food cost by $3,083.92. Volunteer labor is valued separately at $39.80 per hour and is not included in the $2.23 food-value-per-dollar calculation. Program-to-date volunteer labor totals 101 hours with an estimated value of $4,019.80.

EXECUTIVE TAKEAWAY

The second distribution substantially increased reach while maintaining the same purchasing efficiency as the launch event. Through two distributions, Operation Full Plate has now served 169 households representing 371 people and distributed 221 boxes totaling 4,751.5 pounds. The program has used 43.8% of its first packing batch, leaving 283 boxes available for upcoming distributions.

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PACKING BATCH & INVENTORY STEWARDSHIP

BATCH	BOXES PACKED	TOTAL POUNDS	WHOLESALE COST	COST / BOX	BOXES DISTRIBUTED	BOXES REMAINING
CIS-001	**504**	10,836	$9,243.16	$18.34	**221**	**283**

Inventory status: 221 boxes distributed (43.8% of the first batch); 283 boxes remain, equal to approximately 6,084.5 pounds of food. At the September distribution volume, current inventory supports about two additional events.

VOLUNTEER CONTRIBUTION

ACTIVITY	VOLUNTEER PARTICIPATIONS	HOURS	ESTIMATED LABOR VALUE
Food packing	18	63	$2,507.40
August distribution	4	12	$477.60
September distribution	5	26	$1,034.80
Program total	**27**	**101**	**$4,019.80**

Volunteer participation counts activity instances, not necessarily unique individuals. Packing labor supports the full 504-box batch.

WHAT THE NUMBERS SHOW

- Program-to-date reach now totals 169 households and 371 people through two St. Cloud distributions.
- The September event served 96 Veterans, five Veteran family members, and one current service member; 27 participating Veterans were women.
- September reach grew materially from the August launch: households increased 52%, people represented increased 75%, and boxes distributed increased 63%.
- Cumulative distribution now totals 221 boxes and 4,751.5 pounds of food with $9,027.85 in recognized food value.

OPERATIONAL CHALLENGE & CAPACITY NEED

DELIVERY AND SPACE ARE NOW TOP PRIORITIES

The September distribution exposed a significant logistics challenge. The food pallet arrived approximately one week earlier than scheduled, and the VA could not accept the unscheduled delivery. As the program grows, reliable transportation and direct control over delivery timing will be a top operational priority. A dedicated space for receiving, staging, storing, and supporting future growth is also becoming increasingly important.

EXPANSION INTEREST

Operation Full Plate has begun drawing interest from additional Minnesota communities, including Virginia, New Ulm, Little Falls, and other potential expansion areas. The program will continue to expand deliberately, with logistics, local partners, recurring distribution space, and sustainable food supply established before new sites launch.

NEXT STEPS

- Secure more reliable transportation capacity and tighter control over delivery scheduling.
- Identify dedicated program space that can support receiving, storage, staging, and future packing or distribution growth.
- Continue the recurring St. Cloud distribution while monitoring demand and remaining inventory.
- Begin planning the next packing batch now; 283 boxes remain, or roughly two September-sized distributions.
- Develop Virginia, New Ulm, Little Falls, and other interested areas as potential future sites only after local operating capacity is confirmed.

BOTTOM LINE

Operation Full Plate is showing strong early demand and measurable growth. The second distribution reached substantially more households and people than the launch event, in part due to increased cooperation with area CVSO's. The next phase is less about proving demand and more about building the transportation, space, inventory, and local partnerships needed to scale the model responsibly.

Prepared by: Trent C. Dilks **Report date:** September 21, 2026

Valuation methodology: Recognized food value uses $1.90 per pound, consistent with the 2025 Feeding America donated-commodity valuation used in the prior Operation Full Plate report. Volunteer labor value uses $39.80 per hour, the 2025 Minnesota estimate from Independent Sector and the Do Good Institute. Data source: Operation Full Plate Program Tracker.