

## PRESS RELEASES

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### Ecolab Foundation Announces \$500,000 Hunger Relief Matching Gift Program

ST. PAUL, Minn., Mar 02, 2009 (BUSINESS WIRE) -- Ecolab Inc. today announced that a special matching gift program has been established for Ecolab associates and retirees to help alleviate hunger in the U.S.

The Ecolab Foundation has pledged a \$250,000 challenge grant designated for food and meal programs which, when matched by Ecolab associate and retiree contributions, would represent a \$500,000 grant for food assistance in 2009. Since every donated dollar can buy \$9 worth of groceries, according to Second Harvest Heartland, the combined gifts through this program -- Ecolab associates, retirees and the Ecolab Foundation -- could effect the purchase of up to \$4.5 million worth of groceries. That would be enough to secure 18 million meals, and make a significant impact for those who are struggling most.

"Clearly the need is great, and as a company with a strong history of caring for the communities where Ecolab associates live and work, we are proud to announce this program by the Ecolab Foundation," stated Douglas M. Baker, Jr., Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer of Ecolab.

The program, available to all U.S. Ecolab associates and retirees, will accept donations to three of the Ecolab Foundation's community partners who address hunger relief. The partners are Second Harvest Heartland, which operates both locally and nationally, and Neighborhood House and Dorothy Day Center, both of which operate in St. Paul, MN. Gifts will be matched dollar for dollar, so every associate and retiree contribution will be doubled to support these organizations.

"The recent economic conditions are very challenging, especially for those individuals who were already struggling. Estimates are that donations to local food shelves are currently down 30%, while visits have increased by 60%. It is times like these that cause us to focus on what we can do to help by giving of our time and resources," said Baker. "This program, in addition to ongoing food drives throughout the year at Ecolab locations around the U.S., will help ease some of the hardship in our communities during this difficult time. We are excited that Ecolab associates and the Ecolab Foundation can work together to help alleviate hunger."

With sales of \$6 billion and more than 26,000 associates, Ecolab Inc. (NYSE: ECL) is the global leader in cleaning, sanitizing, food safety and infection prevention products and services. Ecolab delivers comprehensive programs and services to foodservice, food and beverage processing, healthcare, and hospitality markets in more than 160 countries. More news and information is available at [www.ecolab.com](http://www.ecolab.com).

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SOURCE: Ecolab Inc.

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