

Waite Park Chamber Host Spotlight

Bremer hosted the Waite Park Chamber meeting on Wednesday, October 19, 2011. Bremer provides lending solutions to fit any needs, from personal loans to equipment loans. A privately-held regional financial services company jointly owned by the Otto Bremer Foundation and Bremer employees, Bremer Financial Corporation provides a comprehensive range of banking, investment, trust, and insurance products and services throughout Minnesota, North Dakota, and Wisconsin.

With nearly 2,000 dedicated employees, Bremer serves various clients – individuals and families, large and mid-size corporations, small businesses, agribusinesses, nonprofits, and public and government entities.

The Otto Bremer Foundation uses its share of dividends to distribute charitable grants to Bremer Bank communities, with more than \$27 million given in grants annually over the last five years. In 2010, Bremer Bank donated more than \$1 million across the three-state region and Bremer employees volunteered more than 100,000 hours of their time to aid community causes and needs.

In June 2011, Bremer Bank partnered for the sixth consecutive year with Second Harvest Heartland and other Feeding America food banks in Minnesota with the “Taking Action to End Hunger” campaign. With every \$1 donation helping to provide up to 14 meals, Bremer matched every dollar donation up to \$50,000, and donations this year rose 65 percent from last year. The campaign this year raised \$84,614, and in six years, has raised \$847,434 for Second Harvest Heartland.

Because hunger in the region has doubled over the past five years, one in ten Minnesotans today must choose between food and something else that they need such as housing, gas, or medications. Second Harvest Heartland, the Upper Midwest’s largest hunger relief organization, is working to combat this growing problem. In 2010, they collected, warehoused, and distributed nearly 60 million pounds of food. For each \$50 donated, Second Harvest Heartland can provide more than 180 meals to hungry families, children, and seniors in Minnesota and western Wisconsin.