



Midwest FOOD BANK

Peoria Division

Tender Mercies



The *Tender Mercies* project was initiated at the MFB to help guide and extend the mission of alleviating food insecurity and suffering wherever it may be found. Perhaps one of the biggest ongoing concerns among those who are called to serve the food-insecure is the general lack of nutrition. Through our generous donors and purchases we consistently have a steady supply of bulk beans, rice, pasta and Texture Vegetable Protein (TVP). We became aware that we had the potential to develop a nutritionally value added product in house.

MFB contacted the University of Illinois Soy Research Department. In turn, they provided the input and recipes for American tastes and flavors. As a result, we are thrilled to bring you *Tender Mercies*. Each pre-packaged bag offers 25% of the daily recommended value for Dietary Fiber and 13g protein per ½ cup serving. One bag is about 4 servings. We feel that that offering this product will not only boost nutritional levels for struggling families, but it is our sincere hope to help offset childhood obesity.

The benefits are immeasurable, but chief among them are:

- Each serving costs approximately 11 cents. That means a family of 4 can eat a meal for less than 50 cents.
- A pan and hot water is all that is needed to prepare the meal.
- The bag is marked to measure water volume if a measuring cup is not available. That makes this product especially desirable for disaster situations.
- Picture instructions are included on the label, eliminating the literacy restraint if that is an issue.
- Ingredients are available in the Midwest and we utilize products grown locally.
- The financial burden on MFB is eased for food purchases. The cost to produce Tender Mercies is much lower than higher priced items we have grown accustomed to purchasing monthly.
- Manufacturing *Tender Mercies* onsite gives MFB more opportunities for volunteers to become engaged and give to their community. These include educating young people in the spirit of giving of their time and resources and opening the door to more opportunities for corporate philanthropy.

Tender Mercies is the next step on our journey of connecting our community through service.