

World Food Prize Foundation

Nobel Prize for Food and Agriculture

International flavor...

Des Moines is the home of the World Food Prize Foundation which provides prestigious international awards to individuals who have made strides to improve the quality, quantity and availability of food. In 2004 the organization hosted the World Food Prize Laureate Award Ceremony at Iowa's Capitol. Over 600 people were in attendance, including representatives from 62 countries and the Ministers of Agriculture from Asia and Africa.

Kenneth Quinn, a former United States Ambassador to the Kingdom of Cambodia, is president of the World Food Prize Foundation. In 2004 the group continued to expand its programs to increase awareness of food security and malnutrition. "It is fitting that the "Nobel Prize for Food and Agriculture" is awarded in Iowa, the agricultural heartland of the world," Quinn said. The World Food Prize strives to create an international event each year through the Symposium, which attracts hundreds of visitors to Des Moines from throughout the United

States and abroad. This not only has economic value to Iowa, but also through the potential relationships that are developed.

Hoover-Wallace Dinner...

Another noteworthy project is the Hoover-Wallace dinner named after two distinguished native Iowans: former President Herbert Hoover, who arranged for the delivery of food to Europe during World War I; and former Vice President Henry Wallace, whose agricultural innovations increased food availability and nutrition for millions of people. The event was established in 2004 to recognize Iowa's humanitarian leaders and its humanitarian heritage. "It is an occasion where Iowans come together above political, social, ethnic and racial differences to celebrate Iowa's legacy of feeding the world and alleviating human suffering" said Quinn. The 2004 dinner was a celebration for Nobel Peace Prize Laureate and Iowa native Dr. Norman E. Borlaug's 90th birthday. Dr. Borlaug received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1970

for his work in world agriculture and is credited with saving one billion lives through his work.

The 2005 dinner honored former Vice President Walter Mondale and former Iowa Governor Robert Ray. These leaders were recognized for their work in 1970 to rescue thousands of Vietnamese refugees, as well as their efforts to deliver food and medical aid to Thai and Cambodian refugees, after the Khmer Rouge genocide.

Feeding the World...

The fundamental goal of the World Food Prize Foundation is to ensure there will be an adequate supply and availability of nutritious food for the burgeoning world population in the 21st Century. The organization works in partnership with educational, historic, cultural, religious, and other institutions; it inspires those working in the fields of food research, food production and in poverty eradication.

The World Food Prize is sponsored by John Ruan, a Des Moines businessman and philanthropist. The foundation has announced plans to move its headquarters to a restored 100 year old building, (formerly the Des Moines Public Library). The \$13 million dollar restoration project will include a new museum, a convocation center, a Hall of Laureates and Ceremonial Hall. Scheduled for completion in 2008, the new headquarters will be a centerpiece for the new Principal Riverwalk which links the city, the Des Moines River and the Capitol.



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