



Southeast Michigan Children Will Enjoy A *Hunger Free Summer in 2011*

Thanks to Charter One & Other Generous Supporters

(June 20, 2011 – Detroit, MI) ... **Forgotten Harvest** and **Gleaners Community Food Bank of Southeastern Michigan** (Gleaners) are partnering with **Charter One Foundation** and other corporate and community donors to provide **2 million meals to hungry southeast Michigan children this summer through their *Hunger Free Summer* campaign.**

A press conference and the official launch of the ***Hunger Free Summer*** campaign will be held at **Campus Martius Park (rain location Cadillac Square) in Detroit on Friday, June 24, 2011 at 11a.m.** Michigan Charter One President Sandy Pierce will welcome agency and corporate representatives as well as children from some of the organizations' summer programs. The children will be treated to a picnic lunch and take home a weekend backpack of food. (After the announcement, the Wall Clocks will begin a concert at Campus Martius as part of Charter One Foundation's Lunch Time concert series.)

More than 300,000 children in southeast Michigan receive free or reduced-fee meals during the school year. In the summer months, they often go without. During the ten-week Hunger Free Summer campaign, (through September 1) donations will be matched dollar-for-dollar by Ford Motor Company Fund and Community Services, Enterprise Rent-A-Car, Hiller's and The Young Foundation. Additionally, Hiller's and Hollywood Market(s) shoppers can add a Hunger Free Summer donation to their bill at checkout registers.

Gleaners and Forgotten Harvest will provide children with food through their Summer Lunch, BackPack, Daily Bread and mobile pantry programs. **Every \$1 donation provides eight nutritious lunches** for hungry children in southeastern Michigan.

Now through September 1, donations can be made:

- Online at www.HungerFreeSummer.org
- Calling 888-332-7140
- Text "HFS" TO 85944 (a \$10 donation will be automatically added to donor's cell phone bill –message and data rates may apply.)
- Checks by Mail: Hunger Free Summer, P.O. Box 1380, Troy, MI 48099
- Adding a donation of \$1, \$3, \$5 or more at all Hiller's and Hollywood Market(s) checkout registers

The public can support and follow the campaign at HungerFreeSummer on Twitter and Facebook.

About Charter One Foundation:

Charter One Foundation is a subsidiary of the Citizens Charitable Foundation, which is a charitable contributions vehicle of Citizens Financial Group, Inc., RBS Citizens, N.A. and Citizens Bank of Pennsylvania. The foundation's support is focused on housing, community development and basic human needs. Charter One's website is www.charterone.com.

About Forgotten Harvest:

Forgotten Harvest was formed in 1990 to fight two problems: hunger and waste. Forgotten Harvest is on track to rescue more than 23 million pounds of food this year by collecting surplus prepared and perishable food from more than 450 sources, including grocery stores, fruit and vegetable markets, restaurants, caterers, dairies, farmers, wholesale food distributors and other Health Department-approved sources. This donated food, which would otherwise go to waste, is delivered free-of-charge to 165 emergency food providers in the Metro Detroit area. Learn more about Forgotten Harvest and how to help drive hunger from our community at www.forgottenharvest.org.

About Gleaners Community Food Bank of Southeastern Michigan (Gleaners):

Founded in 1977, Gleaners is one of the oldest and largest food banks in the country. Today it distributes more than 36 million pounds of emergency food annually, equivalent to over 532,000 meals per week. Headquartered in Detroit, Gleaners operates a total of five distribution centers, in Wayne, Oakland, Macomb, Livingston and Monroe counties, which provide food to 484 partner soup kitchens, food pantries, shelters and other agencies throughout southeastern Michigan. Of every dollar donated, Gleaners uses 96 cents for food and food programs. One dollar provides three meals for a hungry neighbor. Learn more at www.gcfb.org.

Media Only: For more information or to schedule an interview, please contact:

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