



NEWS RELEASE

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WISCONSIN LETTER CARRIERS, DONORS BAND TOGETHER TO STAMP OUT HUNGER SATURDAY, MAY 12

Milwaukee (May 7, 2007)—Join more than 5,000 Wisconsin letter carriers, countless volunteers and tens of thousands of food donors in a statewide effort to fight hunger by **donating non-perishable food to the Stamp Out Hunger food drive, Saturday, May 12**. Now in its 15th year, the Stamp Out Hunger food drive is the largest one-day food drive in the nation.

During the Stamp Out Hunger food drive, donors can leave non-perishable food by their mailboxes in time for collection by their letter carriers on May 12. More than 700 Milwaukee-area volunteers and hundreds of volunteers from communities throughout Wisconsin will work at their local post offices sorting food into categories and loading it onto trucks for distribution to the poor. Hunger Task Force will distribute all food collected in Milwaukee to the hungry free of charge through a network of qualified food pantries, soup kitchens and homeless shelters. Food collected outside Milwaukee will stay in those communities to fight hunger.

To make donating to the food drive easy, letter carriers will distribute collection bags to donors May 9-11. **Hunger Task Force is encouraging donations of nutritious snack foods, including juice cups and juice boxes, low-fat pudding cups, granola bars and individual raisin boxes; as well as name-brand cereal, canned fruits and vegetables, rice and spaghetti.**

“Every spring we can count on the hard work of the letter carriers and the generosity of Milwaukee donors to make the Stamp Out Hunger food drive a roaring success. This year we’re proud to take this food drive statewide,” said Sherrie Tussler, Hunger Task Force executive director. “Low-income families rely on supplies of emergency food during the summer when their kids aren’t receiving school meals. The food donated during the Stamp Out Hunger food drive keeps the shelves of food pantries in our neighborhoods stocked during the summer.”

The Stamp Out Hunger food drive is sponsored in Wisconsin by the National Association of Letter Carriers, Northwestern Mutual Foundation, Piggly Wiggly and FM 106.

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Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive/ Add One

Local Organization, Statewide Reach

This year is the first time the Stamp Out Hunger food drive has been expanded to include communities outside eastern Wisconsin. Hunger Task Force and Pioneer Branch 2 of the National Association of Letter Carriers have organized letter carriers from 290 Wisconsin post offices—more than 5,000 letter carriers in all—to participate. Communities outside Milwaukee include Racine, Kenosha, Madison, LaCrosse, Green Bay and Appleton.

Milwaukee's Pioneer Branch 2 is the only branch of the National Association of Letter Carriers in the nation to expand food drive participation to letter carriers statewide. Last year the food drive collected more than 1.6 million pounds of food in eastern Wisconsin.

Increased Poverty, Decreased Government Food Supplies

This year, Hunger Task Force hopes food drive donations will help offset reduced supplies of food from the United States Department of Agriculture. In 2006, USDA food shipments to Hunger Task Force were at their lowest levels since 2000. So far in 2007, deliveries are on pace to be even lower than in 2006.

Poverty in Milwaukee is at record levels and government food supplies are at six-year lows. Milwaukee is currently experiencing some of the highest poverty in the nation. According to the United States Census Bureau, more than 143,000 Milwaukee residents, including 62,000 children, are without money to meet their basic needs. Milwaukee suffers from the fourth-worst childhood poverty rate in the country and seventh-worst poverty rate overall.

Hunger Task Force supplies 60 local food pantries that serve 33,000 people every month in Milwaukee. Similarly, 20 area soup kitchens and homeless shelters rely on food supplied by Hunger Task Force to serve up to 61,000 hot meals each month. Last year Hunger Task Force distributed 8.3 million pounds of food to the hungry in southeastern Wisconsin, free of charge.

For more information on the Stamp Out Hunger food drive, visit the Hunger Task Force Web site, www.hungertaskforce.org, or call (414) 777-0483.