



News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WEAK ECONOMY COMPOUNDS HUNGER PROBLEM IN WASHINGTON REGION, FOOD BANKS SEEING RECORD NUMBERS

29TH ANNUAL METROPOLITAN AREA HUNGER CONFERENCE TO PROVIDE FORUM, EXPERTISE ON HUNGER CRISIS

Washington, D.C., April 22, 2009 – Food banks across the National Capital Region are reporting record numbers of families, individuals and first-time visitors seeking food assistance in the wake of job losses and home foreclosures. The Capital Area Food Bank, the metro regions leading public nonprofit food and nutrition resource, responds to the hunger problem with its 2009 Metropolitan Area Hunger Conference *Doing More with Less* to be held on Friday, April 24, 2009 at Shabach Ministries, Inc. (3600 Brightseat Road, Landover, MD, 20785). This free one-day summit is beneficial to any organization that has a feeding program and deals with issues of hunger.

Now in its twenty-ninth year, the Metropolitan Area Hunger Conference offers strategic insight, dialogue and solutions; as well as networking opportunities for the 700 member agencies served through the CAFB, and the entire nonprofit community. Workshops offered cover best practices in food pantry operations, budgeting options for anti-hunger advocates, financial survival, maximizing media outreach and food stamp outreach.

“I have worked on hunger related issues for over 37 years and I have never seen witnessed so many people in dire need. Our agencies are reporting from 30 up to 200 percent increases in the demand for services,” said Lynn Brantley, president and CEO of the Capital Area Food Bank. “The need for the food bank and our partner agencies is greater than ever. This year’s theme ‘Doing More with Less’ will help agencies maximize resources and meet increased demands.”

The 2009 Metropolitan Area Hunger Conference is a forum offering invaluable information to those committed to ending hunger. Strategic insight gained from the conference will enhance nonprofits’ relief efforts, while encouraging key government officials and policy makers to take action against hunger.

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The keynote speaker is George Jones, executive director of Bread for the City. The forum will include a panel discussion with nonprofit executives that will help organizations continue to serve those in need during times of economic uncertainty. The luncheon also provides an opportunity for the CAFB to recognize some of its outstanding member agencies, volunteers and generous donors.

Additional information and registration are available by logging on to CapitalAreaFoodBank.org or by calling the Capital Area Food Bank at 202.526.5344 ext. 223.

The Capital Area Food Bank is the largest public, nonprofit food and nutrition education resource in the Washington, D.C. Metropolitan Area. Last year the Capital Area Food Bank distributed 20 million pounds of food through more than 700 partner agencies in the region. In Washington, D.C. 1 in 2 school age children is at risk of hunger; in Prince George's and Montgomery Counties, 1 in 5; and in Northern Virginia, 1 in 6. In conjunction with our partner agencies, the CAFB helps nourish children, seniors and families in need. The Capital Area Food Bank has served the National Capital Region for over 29 years. For more information, visit our web site at www.CapitalAreaFoodBank.org.

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