



News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

First Lady Celebrates First 100 Days Volunteering at Capital Area Food Bank

Michelle Obama Packs Bags for Food Bank's Weekend Bag Program

Washington, DC, April 30, 2009 – First Lady Michelle Obama stopped by the Capital Area Food Bank – a member of Feeding America, the nation's food bank network – on Wednesday to help pack bags for the food bank's Weekend Bag Program, a service that provides 1000 children weekly with bags of food when they do not have access to school meals. Dr. Jill Biden along with approximately 150 congressional spouses and children joined Michelle Obama in filling 2,000 bags of food for hungry children in our nation's capital – each bag containing enough food for five meals.

“Food is one of life's most basic needs yet children are going to school everyday nutritionally unprepared to learn. Our Weekend Bag program ensures that a child gets something to eat over the weekend,” says Lynn Brantley, president and CEO of the Capital Area Food Bank. “We applaud First Lady Obama and Dr. Biden for their commitment to ending hunger and for volunteering their time.”

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. Approximately 200,000 children are at risk of hunger in the metro region – that is one in five children. To help address the increased demands for food and ensure that children do not go hungry, the CAFB offers numerous programs, such as Kids Cafe – an after school meal program that provides healthy snacks to children who may not have dinner available at home.

Hunger is a pervasive issue in the United States with 36 million Americans, including 12 million kids, living on the brink of hunger.

For more information about the Weekend Bag program and the Capital Area Food Bank please visit CapitalAreaFoodBank.org.

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 CAFB distributed 23 million pounds of food, including 6 million pounds of fresh produce, to over 700 partner agencies. The Capital Area Food Bank has served the National Capital Region over 29 years.

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