



News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TREASURED CAPITAL AREA FOOD BANK EMPLOYEE PASSES REUBEN GIST, COMMUNITY LEADER AND SOCIAL ADVOCATE, IS MOURNED

Washington, D.C., September 16, 2008 – The Capital Area Food Bank is deeply saddened by the recent loss of our cherished colleague and friend, Reuben L. Gist, who passed on Tuesday, September 9, 2008. Gist, the director of Advocacy and Community Outreach, was employed at the Capital Area Food Bank since 1999.

Gist joined the CAFB to create an advocacy department to build allies, effect change and generate awareness in the struggle to feed the hungry in the Washington metro area. He came to the food bank after founding *Health Promotions, Inc.*, a program targeted toward at-risk youth in the community; establishing the *National Health Screening Council of Jamaica*; working with the *National Health Screening Council for Volunteer Organizations*, the *US Copyright Office at the Library of Congress*; and serving time as a *U.S. Peace Corp* volunteer, working as the coach of the Honduran National Track and Field Program.

Through these affiliations, Gist built an enviable Black Book of Who's Who in the metro area and used those contacts to advocate on behalf of the needy. He was, in the words of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., "a drum major for justice." He had a tremendous impact on many CAFB initiatives such as increasing participation in the District's summer feeding program, launching Food Stamp outreach efforts and taking *Face Hunger* – an educational program about the root causes of hunger and poverty – to new heights.

"Reuben cared deeply about the downtrodden, worked tirelessly on behalf of residents suffering from hunger and poverty, and leaves a legacy of service to be commended," says Lynn Brantley, president and CEO of the Capital Area Food Bank. She continues, "Not only has the food bank lost a gem, but the community at large has lost an advocate and a leader. Reuben's passing will leave a tremendous void in the lives of many."

His memorial service will be held on Sunday, September 21st at the River Road Unitarian Universalist Congregation (6301 River Road, Bethesda, MD 20817). Service will begin at 2:30 P.M. In lieu of flowers

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the Gist family is asking that contributions be made to the Capital Area Food Bank in memory of Reuben. Donations can be made online at www.CapitalAreaFoodBank.org or mailed to 645 Taylor Street, NE, Washington, DC 20017.

Gist is survived by his loving wife of 24 years, Arlene and his son, Joshua.

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 20 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 for 28 years.

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