



## News Release

For more information, please contact:  
Kasandra Gunter Robinson  
645 Taylor Street, NE  
Washington, DC 20017  
202-526-5344 ext. 225  
202-526-1253 fax  
robinsonk@foodbank.org  
www.CapitalAreaFoodBank.org

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **CAPITAL AREA FOOD BANK - BREAKING GROUND, BUILDING HOPE ... ONE PIECE AT A TIME**

**Washington, D.C.**, October 20, 2008 – The Capital Area Food Bank is breaking ground on a new facility that will help build a sustainable response to hunger for years to come. The groundbreaking ceremony will take place on Tuesday, October 28, 2008 from 11 AM to 1 PM at 4900 Puerto Rico Avenue, N.E., Washington, D.C. – the site of the new food distribution warehouse. This community-wide event will celebrate the new facility and involves everyone in the food bank’s network.

The food bank is building and renovating its distribution center to address the increasing need in the Washington, D.C. metro area. The CAFB serves approximately 383,000 people through its 700 nonprofit partner agencies; however the need in the region is about 633,000 residents and growing. For the past eight years, food distribution has remained flat at 20 million pounds of food per year. The new 125,000 square foot structure will increase capacity to about 40 million pounds each year. Environmentally-friendly “green” features are in the plans, including \$1 million in solar panels and other equipment donated by BP America. The expanded building capacity will also allow the food bank to increase agency support and enhance direct service programs that benefit the community. Additionally, the CAFB will be prepared to respond to large-scale community emergencies as part of Emergency and Disaster Response initiatives.

“While we are contented to be moving to a new facility, the need for it underscores the reality that we have a lot of work to do in this country to help every citizen eat three nutritious meals a day,” says Lynn Brantley, president & CEO of the Capital Area Food Bank. She continues, “Since we opened our doors in 1980, our goal has been to provide access to healthy food for the residents of this community. We would love to go out of business, but unfortunately the need has continued to grow and now includes not only the working poor, but many who once considered themselves middle class. We plan to expand food distribution, services, nutrition education, outreach, special events and other initiatives once we move into the new space. We expect to make an even larger impact in this community by offering hope – to a single mother who works but struggles to feed her children, to a senior citizen who faces medical expenses and sacrifices food for that care or perhaps a family that faces job loss or foreclosure. These are real people who are at risk of going hungry.”

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*CAFB, Breaking Ground con't.*

The ceremony will include live music, refreshments provided by local vendors, interactive exhibits and displays of the innovative features of the new facility. Providing remarks at the ceremony will be J.W. Marriott, Jr., chairman & CEO, Marriott International; Leila Edmonds, director, District of Columbia Department of Housing and Community Development; David Jannarone, director of Development, Office of the Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development; Ed Schafer, USDA Secretary; and George Jones, executive director, Bread for the City. Also confirmed to attend is Ward 5 Council Member, Harry Thomas, Jr. This event is free and open to the public.

The \$36 million *'Til No One is Hungry Campaign* designed to raise funds for the Capital Area Food Bank's new building has been underway since 2004 and will culminate in early 2010 when the food bank transitions to its new home. Campaign co-chairs include Donald E. Graham, chairman & CEO, The Washington Post Company; J.W. Marriott, Jr., chairman & CEO, Marriott International, Inc.; Abe Pollin, chairman, Washington Sports & Entertainment; and Bennett Zier, Umansky Wyatt Zier Consulting. This building project is only possible because of the incredible support of all of the food bank's donors, partners and friends, especially the District of Columbia's Department of Housing and Community Development.

***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 28 years. For more information, visit our web site at [www.CapitalAreaFoodBank.org](http://www.CapitalAreaFoodBank.org).***

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