



News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Capital Area Food Bank Seeks Public Support as Region Faces Hunger Crisis Announces One Million Dollar Fresh Produce Campaign

Washington, DC, July 1—Lynn Brantley, President and CEO of the Capital Area Food Bank (CAFB), announced that the food bank’s partner agencies will be asked for the first time in the food bank’s 31-year history to pay a shared maintenance fee for receiving fruits and vegetables. In an effort to reduce the burden on the agencies, the CAFB is launching a one million dollar fresh produce campaign beginning today and running for one year.

Brantley explained that the food bank’s transportation and food costs have increased by 30 percent in the last three months and if additional funds for fresh produce are not raised, the food bank will have to pass along to the agencies a 10 cents per pound fee. The fee is a fraction of the actual cost of fresh produce, but, it can dramatically increase the financial burden for some agencies, especially the smaller and more vulnerable ones.

Brantley said, “We deeply regret having to initiate this shared maintenance fee, especially at a time when we are facing a hunger crisis in our region. One out of two children in Washington, DC is at risk of hunger every day. In addition, Congress is proposing \$800 million in cuts to nutrition programs.”

This year, the Capital Area Food Bank is distributing 30 million pounds of food to over 700 partner agencies in the Washington metro area. The CAFB’s goal is to distribute 15 million pounds of fresh produce by the end of 2011.

Brantley said, “We have been committed to providing fresh produce to our neighbors in need for the last 15 years and by announcing our one million fresh produce campaign today, we are reaffirming that commitment. We are appealing to everyone in our region for support -- individuals, foundations, corporations, and the public sector.”

The Capital Area Food Bank, a member of Feeding America, was founded in 1980 and takes a comprehensive approach to addressing hunger by increasing access to nutritious food, initiating change through skill-building and advocacy, and creating sustainability with outreach and training for those at risk of hunger. The CAFB is the Washington metro area’s largest public, nonprofit food and nutrition education resource.

