



For Immediate Release

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Arkansas Hunger Relief Alliance Announces “Spirit of Giving” Drive December 13 - 20

LITTLE ROCK, AR (*December 6, 2006*)--The Arkansas Hunger Relief Alliance will collect food and cash donations at 67 sites across the state during the second annual “Spirit of Giving” drive December 13 – 20. Donated food will stay in local communities for immediate distribution to the needy through six Alliance food bank and food rescue organizations across the state.

“People tend to think hunger is something found only in Third World countries, but it’s here in our backyards,” according to Alliance executive director Debra Alich.

The US Department of Agriculture ranks Arkansas as having the third highest incidence of hunger in the nation, and the numbers of hungry Arkansans are growing.

The Arkansas Hunger Relief Alliance conducted the first statewide study of hunger last year and the results were startling: Approximately 11% of the population – about 291,500 individuals – received food in 2005 from the Alliance network.

The study found that some of the most vulnerable Arkansans suffer most:

- 40% of the clients were children;
- 10% were over the age of 65; and
- 38% reported having at least one household member in poor health.

Members of the Arkansas Hunger Relief Alliance include the Arkansas Foodbank Network, Foodbank of North Central Arkansas, Food Bank of Northeast Arkansas,

Harvest Texarkana, Ozark Food Bank, Potluck – Food Rescue, and River Valley Regional Food Bank.

The items most needed by the food banks include canned meats, fish, or poultry, canned/packaged meals, peanut butter, cereal, soups, canned vegetables, canned fruits, 100% juices, pasta and pasta sauces, baby products (formula, food, diapers, or bottles). Items packaged in glass are not preferred.

The food drive is sponsored by KATV-Channel 7 and US Bank. Donations can be made to any US Bank branch in Arkansas or KATV-Channel 7's River Market studio. Other drop-off sites are also available. A complete listing of food drop-off sites and times are at the Alliance website: www.ARhungeralliance.org.

