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Arkansas Hunger Relief Alliance Announces 3rd Annual “Spirit of Giving” Drive December 12-19

Little Rock, AR (December 5, 2007) – The Arkansas Hunger Relief Alliance will collect food and cash donations at more than 70 sites across the state during the third annual “Spirit of Giving” drive December 12-19. 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.

“Let there be no mistake, hunger touches every community in our state, and affects friends and neighbors. An estimated 1 in 7 Arkansans doesn’t know from where they will get their next meal,” according to Michelle Shope, Director of Food Sourcing for the Alliance.

The US Department of Agriculture ranks Arkansas as having the third highest incidence of hunger in the nation, and the numbers of hungry Arkansans continues to grow. Based on the most recent USDA report there were more than 163,000 Arkansans in 2006 that were hungry; over 6% of our state’s population.

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, and diapers. 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 can be found on the Alliance website: www.ARhungeralliance.org.

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 and River Valley Regional Food Bank.