



Press Release

FROM THE OFFICE OF STATE REPRESENTATIVE LA SHAWN K. FORD

For Immediate Release:

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For More Information:

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Ford Grateful for Response to 2010 Austin Food Drive

Urges all to continue to give food so no one will be hungry

CHICAGO – Almost 800,000 Illinois families received food stamp benefits in Illinois this year, a record high, up 12 percent from 2009. Use of food stamps signals a need for food like never before. Austin is one of Chicago's community areas still struggling to recover from this summer's flood, and Austin's unemployment rate is double the national rate. "It's harder to get food to feed the families that come to the pantry, and sometimes it is impossible to feed the new families that come to seek help," said Marjorie Cobbs, who has worked at the Columbus Park Food Pantry for the last 17 years. Now 79 years old, Ms. Cobbs struggles each month to buy supplies and rent a van to pick up food, using her own funds from her fixed income to continue her services for families in need.

"With the holiday season in full gear, we are so grateful for the overwhelming response from the community to help give Ms. Cobbs the opportunity to deliver food and hope to families in need," said State Representative La Shawn K. Ford (D-Chicago). Almost 10,000 food items were donated by 20 schools and community organizations; St. Angela School donated the most food items. Ms. Cobbs will pick up the food items from Rep. Ford's office at 5104 W. Chicago Ave, Chicago, 60651 on Wednesday, December 15, 2010 at 10 a.m.

Rep. Ford encourages all to open their hearts and make a connection with a food pantry near them. "Especially in this holiday season, now more than ever, let's continue the stewardship of giving so no man, woman or child goes a day being hungry in the state of Illinois. If you know anyone in need of food, please contact a local food pantry," said Rep. Ford. To find a nearby food pantry, enter the ZIP code in this website:

http://www.chicagosfoodbank.org/site/PageServer?pagename=member_need_food.

The schools and organizations participating in the 2010 Austin Food Drive include:

- Louis Armstrong Elementary Math and Science
- Michele Clark Academic Preparatory Magnet High School
- George Rogers Clark Elementary School
- Horatio N. May Elementary School
- Henry H. Nash Elementary School
- Herbert Spencer Elementary Math and Science Academy
- Catalyst Circle Rock Elementary School
- John Hay Elementary Community Academy
- George Leland Elementary School
- Ronald McNair Elementary School
- Joseph Lovett Elementary School
- Leslie Lewis Elementary School

- Christ the King Jesuit College Prep. High School
- St. Angela Elementary School
- St. Catherine - St. Lucy School
- MacArthur's Restaurant
- Westside Health Authority
- Circle Family HealthCare Network



Rep. Ford, Principal O'Rourke and students of St. Angela School, which led the way with the most donations in the 2010 Austin Food Drive.



Rep. Ford views some of the donated items for the 2010 Austin Food Drive.

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