NEWS

FROM THE OFFICE OF STATE REPRESENTATIVE LA SHAWN K. FORD

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Rep. Ford Announces Kick-off of the 2010 Austin Food Drive

CHICAGO, IL– With too many families struggling to put food on the table, State Rep. La Shawn K. Ford (D-Chicago) is encouraging residents to support the 2010 Austin Food Drive, which will begin accepting donations November 1.

"As we approach the holidays in these difficult economic times, more families and individuals in our communities experience hunger as they face empty cupboards," said Rep. Ford. "This food drive is an opportunity for our community to come together to do something to help those who need help the most."

Ford has partnered with local community organizations and area schools to host the Austin 2010 Food Drive from November 1, 2010 through December 1, 2010. Members of the community are being asked to donate non-perishable, unopened, canned or packaged food (no glass, perishable or homemade items) that could then be distributed to those in need. Examples of food items include: beans, cereal, chili, pasta, peanut butter, rice, soup, tuna, canned vegetables, and canned fruit.

Donated items are being collected at Ford's constituent service office located at 5104 W. Chicago Ave., Chicago, from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday. Items can also be dropped off at the Westside Health Authority at 4800 W. Chicago Ave., Chicago, or at MacArthur's Restaurant at 5412 W. Madison St, Chicago. The following schools are also participating.

- Louis Armstrong Elementary Math and Science, 5345 W. Congress, Chicago
- Michele Clark Academic Preparatory Magnet High School, 5101 W. Harrison, Chicago
- George Rogers Clark Elementary School, 1045 S. Monitor, Chicago
- Horatio N. May Elementary School, 512 S. Lavergne, Chicago
- Henry H. Nash Elementary School, 4837 W. Erie, Chicago
- Herbert Spencer Elementary Math and Science Academy, 214 N. Lavergne, Chicago
- Catalyst Circle Rock Elementary School, 5608 W. Washington Blvd, Chicago

Only children from those schools are allowed to bring food items during school hours.

"Hunger is real in our community and it is important that we help our friends and neighbors in any way we can," Ford continued. "I encourage everyone to stop by the office and bring an item along."

For more information, contact Ford's constituent service center at (773) 378-5902.

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