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## **FORGOTTEN HARVEST FOCUSES ON HELPING FEED CHILDREN THIS SUMMER IN MILLION MEAL CHALLENGE**

*Goal to raise enough funds to feed 20,000 children per day*

OAK PARK, Mich. (June 21, 2010) – As the school year comes to a close, many children across Southeast Michigan will face a summer of hunger. With one in five children hungry in Metro Detroit and almost one in two children hungry in the City of Detroit, many rely on schools or other day programs to get the proper amount of food and nutrition.

Forgotten Harvest, the only mobile food rescue operation in the metropolitan area providing prepared and perishable foods, is working with area partners in its “Million Meal Challenge For Our Kids” to help bridge the hunger gap while schools are out of session. Through the Challenge, Forgotten Harvest is raising funds to rescue and deliver fresh, nutritious food for children to eat during summer vacation and at other times when they can’t participate in school breakfast and lunch programs. Forgotten Harvest plans to raise enough funds to help feed 20,000 children per day.

“We know that four million households in Michigan live at risk of hunger, and federal statistics show that ‘food insecurity’ for children is highest during the summer. These children rely on food programs through the schools to make up for what cannot be provided within the home. When school is not in session, they simply don’t get enough to eat,” said Susan Goodell, president and CEO of Forgotten Harvest. “Forgotten Harvest is making it our mission this summer to help ensure the children in our communities are properly nourished.”

A partner in the Challenge, Walgreens has committed 124 Southeast Michigan locations to accept food donations of Walgreens-sold food items in its stores from June 21 to Sept. 6 and sell Million Meal Challenge bracelets for \$2. Food and cash donations will be collected by Forgotten Harvest and distributed to food agencies in the areas the food items are collected. Also supporting these efforts are sponsors United Race Group, TMT Trucking, Holyfield’s Choice Alka-Power Water and Vitamin Spice.

People who want to help also can give directly to Forgotten Harvest in three ways:

- Donating on the website at [www.forgottenharvest.org](http://www.forgottenharvest.org)
- Calling toll free at 1.888.332.7140 at any time throughout the campaign
- Mailing donations to Forgotten Harvest, 21800 Greenfield Road, Oak Park, Michigan 48237

### **About Forgotten Harvest**

Forgotten Harvest was formed in 1990 to fight two problems: hunger and waste. Forgotten Harvest is on target to “rescue” 19 million pounds of food this fiscal year by collecting surplus prepared and perishable food from 455 sources, including grocery stores, fruit and vegetable markets, restaurants, caterers, dairies, farmers, wholesale food distributors and other Health Department-approved sources. This donated food, which would otherwise go to waste, is delivered free-of-charge to 165 emergency food providers in the Metro Detroit area.

Learn more about Forgotten Harvest and how to help drive hunger from our community at [www.forgottenharvest.org](http://www.forgottenharvest.org).