



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Public Support Sought To Further Efforts To Feed The Community

(August 22, 2008) - Word of Righteousness Family Life Center will be serving the community again on Saturday, September 6, 2008, from 12 pm to 2 pm at the Garfield Heights Community Center (13455 Dressler Road) in Garfield Heights, Ohio. The Center urges the community to support its efforts to feed the community since so many lives are impacted by this work. Already the Center has made several adjustments to continue this community service in light of increased demand and decreased volunteer and financial support. For instance, telephone pre-registration is no longer accepted and un-registered clients can only be served at the food distribution between the hours of 1 pm and 2 pm. The Center appreciates the continued patience and cooperation of the clients it serves during this transition.

Pastor Alicia Lytle, the Center's community outreach program coordinator, reports, "the present economy has left many individuals with an inadequate supply of food. When faced with housing instability and rising gas prices, many individuals adjust by purchasing less food. Word of Righteousness Family Life Center recognizes that many individuals and families in the community face a food shortage and operate this distribution in an effort to meet this need. At the food distribution held on August 2, 2008, the Center served 230 people from 72 households. With the support of the entire community, it can accomplish so much more for the benefit of those in need. The real issue is that, because of the current economic crisis, more people are in need than ever before in recent history. Now even working middle class families are seeking food supplements to stretch their budgets."

Word of Righteousness Family Life Center's food distribution greatly helps the community because it offers fresh fruits and vegetables wherever possible and stocks items from all of the food groups to ensure that clients can prepare a well-balanced meal. Perhaps most notable, it operates a 'client choice' pantry that allows clients to choose the groceries they like, and even strives to always include snack options. But perhaps quotes from some of the clients (past and present) best illustrates the impact this effort has had on peoples' lives:

"When its hard and I have no food (not alot) to feed my family, they are there to help me and also other families out there. Thank you."

- Hayana H. (Garfield Heights)

"I am disabled and waiting for disability benefits since last year. My son lives with me but can't find work. We are behind with bills and in need of everything. This helps so much. THANK YOU!"

- Rosemary W. (Maple Heights)

"Prayers in food because people are struggling and this church has been a blessing. They find ways for people to eat and that's a big blessing and I am thankful for that."

- Natausha D. (Garfield Heights)

"I was just in an apartment fire and I was in need of food and this has just been very helpful to me and my family. Thank you very much!"

- Jacqueline K. (Bedford)

"Helps Feed Us. This School Is Much Nicer & Efficient. Thank God for a Group Like Yours."

- Mary Anne Y. (Garfield Heights)

"I am on pension and it helps me."

- Dave G. (Valley View)

"I am 66 and I think this is wonderful what they are doing and I think it should continue."

- Donna M. (Garfield Heights)

Nevertheless, as a grassroots organization dependent upon public support to operate, the economy has also impacted Word of Righteousness Family Life Center. Rising food and gas prices have increased the cost to maintain this program while contributing to a decline in individual contributions. While the Center is grateful for the support of the Neighborhood News, Mayor Thomas Longo and Councilman Michael Dudley (Ward One), it hopes that the community-at-large will take advantage of the opportunity to support this cause, as well. For every \$1 donated, through its partnership with the Cleveland Foodbank, the Center is able to distribute enough food to prepare 4 meals for hungry families in this community! Therefore, a cash donation in any amount can make a huge difference in the lives of others.

Contributors should make all checks payable to WORFLC COMMUNITY OUTREACH FUND and mail to P.O. Box 25584, Garfield Heights, Ohio 44125. "Please do not mail food or supermarket gift certificates since your donated dollar goes much further at the Foodbank," Pastor Alicia explains. Donations can also securely be made online at www.worflc.org. Those wishing to volunteer should send a short letter of interest to community@worflc.org.

Selected Photos



Clients from all walks of life wait in line to receive food.



Volunteer helps clients select groceries for their families.



Michael Dudley, Jr., stocks food for the distribution.

Additional photos available upon request. Press may contact Pastor Alicia M. Lytle at amlytle@worflc.org.

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