

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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St. Paul Food Shelf Hosts Local Foods Night

The event will feature food, games and resources, and is part of a broader effort on the part of Hallie Q. Brown Food Shelf to bring fresh, local foods to underserved populations.

St. Paul, MN – July 6, 2011 – Hallie Q. Brown Food Shelf will host a local foods night at St. Paul Reformation Lutheran Church in St. Paul on Thursday, August 18th from 5:30-7:30 pm. The event will feature cooking demonstrations by local chefs and CSA farmers, resource tables, samples of local fruits and vegetables, live music, and games for kids.

The event is a part of a local foods drive that spans that entire 2011 growing season. In mid-June, the Food Shelf began receiving donations of fresh vegetables from Community Supported Agriculture farmers and Twin Cities farmer's markets. Additionally, the Food Shelf is partnering with Simply Good Eating, an Extension of the University of Minnesota, to provide free cooking classes for clients in the fall. The goal of the drive is to expand access to fresh, local foods among underserved populations.

Exhibitors include: Mississippi Market Food Coop (as part of its "eat local" month in August), Whole Foods, St. Paul-Ramsey County Food and Nutrition Commission, Fare for All, 10,000 Licks, Fruits of the City, Trotters Café, Featherstone farm, Happy Acres farm, and the Farm of MN. More exhibitors will be announced in the coming weeks.

The event is open to the public and is free of charge. Backyard and community gardeners who attend are encouraged to donate produce.

Last year, the Food Shelf averaged around 400-500 individuals and distributed 11,000 to 13,000 pounds of food per month in over 300 households. In 2011, the Food Shelf has served between 700-800 individuals a month and distributed 14,000 to 16,000 pounds of food to over 400 households.

About Hallie Q. Brown Community Center, Inc:

The mission of Hallie Q. Brown Community Center, Inc (HQB) is to improve quality of life to those it serves by providing critical human services, promoting personal growth and fostering community engagement and leadership with a primary focus on the Summit-University area of Saint Paul. In executing this mission, HQB successfully operates a wide variety of programs which specifically address the critical needs of community residents.

Although HQB began as a settlement house for African Americans denied services from other agencies, the organization long ago opened the Center's services to all people. HQB can be visited online at www.hallieqbrown.org.

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