

THE COLUMBUS FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES CRITICAL NEED ALERT TO RAISE \$1.2 MILLION FOR EMERGENCY NEEDS IN CENTRAL OHIO IN FEBRUARY

- *Effort to provide support for 20 food and emergency shelter group through Safety Net Fund;*
- *Public is invited to participate on February 26, beginning at 2 pm;*
- *Participants can multiply their donations, thanks to availability of a match*

Columbus, OH (February 18, 2009)--The Columbus Foundation has issued a Critical Need Alert in response to the dramatic increase in the need for emergency food and shelter in the community this winter. The effort focuses on 20 nonprofit organizations providing emergency services.

The Foundation issued the Critical Need Alert to provide an easy, strategic way for donors and the community to donate to one, multiple, or all of the 20 food and emergency shelter organizations that are part of the effort. Central Ohio food pantries have seen a percent increase in demand, and that's an unsettling predictor of what's to come.

The public match begins online at www.columbusfoundation.org on February 26 at 2 pm. Anyone can give, with a minimum credit card gift of \$20. Participants have the opportunity to multiply their donation by having the Foundation match 50 cents of every \$1 contributed by credit card, with no limit per individual or organization supported. The match is made possible by Columbus Foundation donors and the Governing Committee, who have committed \$400,000 in matching charitable dollars to help provide immediate financial support to 20 local nonprofits. (\$300,000 in matching funds is available for Columbus Foundation donors, and \$100,000 is available in matching funds for the public.)

The following organizations, which are part of The Columbus Foundation's online database, Power Philanthropy®, are involved:

Choice Food Pantries: Broad Street Presbyterian Church, Catholic Social Services, Clintonville-Beachwood Community Resources Center, Gladden Community House, Lutheran Social Services of Central Ohio, Native American Indian Center of Central Ohio, Neighborhood Services, Inc., The Salvation Army, Westerville Area Resource Ministry.

Emergency Shelters: Faith Mission, The Homeless Families Foundation, Huckleberry House, Inc., Mary haven, Inc., Southeast, Inc. (Friends of the Homeless), Volunteers of America of Greater Ohio, YWCA Columbus (Family Center), CHOICES for Victims of Domestic Violence.

Basic Needs Systems: Community Shelter Board, Mid-Ohio Foodbank, Ohio Association of Second Harvest Foodbanks (Ohio Benefit Bank)

For full details about the Critical Need Alert and each organization, visit www.columbusfoundation.org, call 614/251-4000, or e-mail p2@columbusfoundation.org.

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About The Columbus Foundation and PowerPhilanthropy®

The Columbus Foundation is the trusted philanthropic advisor to 1,700 individuals, families, and businesses who have created unique funds to make a difference in the lives of others through the most effective philanthropy possible. Serving the region for 65 years, The Columbus Foundation is one of the ten largest community foundations in the United States today.

PowerPhilanthropy® is a robust database of more than 425 nonprofits in central Ohio—and offers donors and the public an opportunity to make donations online, on any day, at any time. Launched in February 2008, 5,000 people are registered users and to date, more than \$2 million has been donated to central Ohio nonprofits through The Columbus Foundation's PowerPhilanthropy.