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For Immediate Release

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Foodbank receives second Heat and Eat grant

Shared Harvest Foodbank now has additional funds to purchase food for its network of food pantries, soup kitchens and shelters in the Butler and Warren County areas.

The Greater Cincinnati Foundation has awarded Shared Harvest a grant of \$16,913 from the Heat and Eat Fund to support emergency food purchases. The Foundation established the fund in December 2008 to encourage its donors and the community to make contributions in response to the dramatic increase in the number of families turning to emergency food pantries for help.

Shared Harvest received an initial grant of \$28,000 when the Foundation first established the Heat and Eat Fund. The second grant was made possible by the generous response of individuals and foundations throughout the Greater Cincinnati region.

“After making a critical needs grant to local nonprofits for emergency heat and food, the Foundation appealed to its friends and supporters to give as well,” Helen Mattheis, senior program officer for The Greater Cincinnati Foundation, said. “The response was incredible. In a few weeks, nearly \$300,000 was raised by individuals and private foundations. We let them know that this critical need will continue throughout the winter.”

Of the nearly \$17,000 in Heat and Eat funds the Foundation has provided in the second grant, \$13,389 will be used to support emergency food purchases in Butler County while \$3,524 will assist people in need in Warren County.

“We’ve just come through a year in which our partner agencies witnessed a 35 percent increase in requests for emergency food, and we know recent layoffs at many businesses are likely to send even more people to local pantries,” said Shared Harvest Executive Director Tina Osso.

“At a time when all of us have been impacted by the current recession, it’s gratifying to see the generosity of so many people who realize the importance of meeting the basic needs of people who are forced to choose between paying bills and feeding their families.”