



## **NEWS RELEASE**

### **From Mayor Dean DePiero**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**Monday, December 1, 2008**

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## **PARMA HOLIDAY FOOD DRIVE TO BENEFIT LOCAL HUNGER CENTER**

**(Parma)** – The City of Parma is again collecting non-perishable food items for delivery to the Parma Hunger Center on Broadview Road.

“We’re picking-up where we left off following our successful Christmas in July food drive,” said Parma Mayor Dean DePiero. “We donated hundreds of pounds of food items to the Parma Hunger Center this past summer, and we are repeating the same goodwill effort during the holidays.”

Drop-off boxes are available at Parma City Hall on Ridge Road, Parmatown Mall and the Donna Smallwood Activities Center, formerly the Parma Senior Center.

Residents are being encouraged to bring canned goods to Parmatown Mall following the annual Parma Christmas Parade on Saturday, December 6. The parade will conclude inside Parmatown Mall with Christmas caroling and a visit by Santa Claus at the Main Stage area. Cookies and hot chocolate will also be available. Canned or boxed food donations can be left in several gift wrapped boxes donated by Allied Waste.

Hunger centers and food pantries nationwide are reporting record requests for assistance due to a poor economy and high unemployment. The Cleveland Foodbank supplies more than 450 regional hunger centers in a six county coverage area. Last year, the Foodbank distributed more than 20 million pounds of food.

"What we're doing is pulling together as a community to lend a hand," said Mayor DePiero. "It's the least we can do for our neighbors in need, especially at this time of the year."

Organizers say the Parma Hunger Center's total distribution has been increasing by about ten percent every year. Last year, 2,500 families were served, representing more than 8,000 people.

The Parma Hunger Center has been serving the area for nearly forty years. For more information on assistance criteria, call (216) 351-6376.

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