

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Maryland Food Bank Hunger Brief

Join the Maryland Food Bank's Statewide Effort to Take Action Against Hunger Throughout September

BALTIMORE – September is nationally known as Hunger Action Month, an annual month-long initiative that brings attention to the reality of food insecurity while rallying individuals to take action and join the fight against hunger.

For up to 1 in 3 Marylanders, food insecurity remains top of mind right now as they struggle against high food prices. This month, the Maryland Food Bank (MFB) aims to inspire Marylanders statewide to take action and shine a spotlight on this issue through various efforts, including:

- **Saturday, September 9:** Fans going to see Bruce Springsteen at Oriole Park at Camden Yards will have the opportunity to help their neighbors in need before, during, and after his performance, as food bank volunteers will be roaming the venue collecting credit card donations throughout the evening.
- **Friday, September 15 to Sunday, September 17**: MFB will team up with the Baltimore Orioles for the annual Food & Funds Drive, when non-perishable food items and monetary donations will be collected from fans at Oriole Park at Camden Yards before the start of each game during the Orioles-Tampa Bay Rays series. Fans will also be able to contribute to the effort all month long by visiting mdfoodbank.org/orioles.

Friday, September 15 is also **Hunger Action Day.** That day, and all month long, Marylanders are encouraged to get involved in the fight to end hunger and support our neighbors in need in one of the following ways:

- Volunteer: MFB welcomes individuals, groups, and families for a variety of tasks, including sorting and packing food, helping prepare meals in our on-site kitchen, and gleaning fresh fruits and vegetables on Maryland farms. Check out all the different ways you can volunteer.
- Advocate: Anti-hunger programs in Maryland depend on support from legislators in Annapolis and
 Washington D.C. That's why safeguarding strong programs that are state and federally funded is an important
 way to make sure our statewide efforts go farther. Learn more about MFB's advocacy work to support
 policies that end hunger for more Marylanders and address the root causes that are a barrier to food security.
- **Host a Virtual Food Drive:** This <u>easy-to-use online platform</u> allows you to convey your passion for fighting hunger while simultaneously raising funds. But don't stop there. Make sure to build momentum and funds by sharing it with your friends and family on social media. Speaking of social media...
- **Spread the word:** Share MFB's hunger-fighting <u>stories</u> and <u>videos</u> with your network, link out to MFB social media posts on <u>Facebook</u>, <u>X (Twitter)</u>, <u>Instagram</u>, and <u>LinkedIn</u>, and challenge your followers to get involved too.

Feeding hungry Marylanders while simultaneously building pathways out of hunger will continue to take a tremendous amount of resources. It takes money, it takes food, and it takes people. Hunger Action Month is here, and you can make a very real difference in the lives of your fellow Marylanders by taking action now.

About the Maryland Food Bank

The Maryland Food Bank is a nonprofit hunger-relief organization dedicated to feeding people, strengthening communities, and ending hunger for more Marylanders by partnering with local organizations from the western mountains to the Eastern Shore. The food bank's statewide network of food assistance brings enough resources together to provide more than 111,000 meals every day (over 40 million meals annually) to hungry children, seniors, veterans, and hardworking families, meeting the immediate needs of hungry Marylanders while simultaneously working to create pathways out of hunger. To learn more about the Maryland Food Bank, visit www.mdfoodbank.org.

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