

The Harvester  
Spring 2011

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BIRMINGHAM, AL



P.O. Box 11292  
Birmingham, AL  
35202

**2011 EMPTY BOWLS SOUP LUNCH INFO INSIDE**  
*Please support this event which illustrates how many empty bowls MCH strives to fill each day while also raising much needed funds to support our food recovery program!*

### TROUBLING REALITIES.....

- Alabama ranks #1 in nation in number of residents experiencing "very low food security" ie hunger (USDA)
- Alabama ranks #2 in the nation in obesity
- Alabama ranks # 2 in the nation in income disparity
- 1 in 5 in our state live in poverty (\$22,000 family of 4)

**There is much going on in our community to change these facts!**  
**Check some of our partners or projects to learn more:**  
[www.championsforhealth.org](http://www.championsforhealth.org)                      [www.gbcpf.org](http://www.gbcpf.org)

**TOGETHER we can and are making an impact on the health and wellbeing of our community!!**



Spring 2011 Newsletter

1.4 Million Pounds of Excess Food distributed in 2010 !!!

*The mission of Magic City Harvest is to alleviate food insecurity, malnutrition and food waste. This is done thru distribution of donated perishable and prepared food; education on the effects of poverty manifest thru food insecurity and creation of, and partnership in, collaborative efforts related to these issues.*

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FACEBOOK



**YOU ARE INVITED**  
**To our 8th Annual**  
**"EMPTY BOWLS"**  
**\$15 Soup and Bread Lunch**



**Thursday April 28th 11:00 to 1pm**  
**Bruno Conference Center—St. Vincent's Hospital**  
**Free Parking North Deck**                      **Dine in or Take Out**

#### THANK YOU to...

Altamont School  
Birmingham Yoga  
Crestline Elementary  
Highlands UMC  
Hueytown High School  
Mtn Brook Baptist  
Mtn Brook Presbyterian  
Shades Cahaba Elementary  
St. Francis Episcopal  
Youth Leadership Forum

Artists Incorporated  
Canterbury UMC  
Girl Scout Troop 350  
Hoover High School  
Indian Springs School  
Mtn Brook Jr. High School  
Pizitz Middle School  
Spain Park High School  
Trace Crossings Elem

**FOR HAND PAINTING OR HAND CRAFTING 1,200 BOWLS**  
**One complimentary bowl per lunch ticket**

**OUR DEEP APPRECIATION TO**  
**St. Vincent's Health System**  
**A Social Affair and Oscar's at the Museum**  
**Diane Arnold, Sysco of Central AL**  
**For tickets: [mcharvest@bellsouth.net](mailto:mcharvest@bellsouth.net) or 591-3663**

**“Food From the Bar 2011”  
April 18 – May 13**

The Women Lawyers Section of the Birmingham Bar Association is once again partnering with MCH to alleviate hunger in the Greater Birmingham area by conducting a food drive from April 18-May 13th.

These wonderful professionals want to make a difference— by collecting food and financial donations that will help during the summer months when many schools are closed and children do not have access to school breakfast and lunch programs. There are several collection sites. Call MCH for information. **THANK YOU!!**

**Mtn. Brook Presbyterian Church  
COMMUNITY GARDEN  
“GROWING FOR OTHERS”**

April 22 is the date for planting this garden which will provide fresh vegetables for many of the 30 feeding programs MCH serves. Over 6,000 pounds were harvested in 2010, the 2nd year of the partnership between MBPC and Magic City Harvest.

To ensure a bountiful harvest in 2011, volunteers are needed to help weed and harvest throughout the growing season. Please join with us in providing free, nutritious veggies to those in need. Bring your tools, your family, neighbors and friends to the Community Garden at MBPC

**“FULL BASKET 2011”**

**Recovering locally grown veggies from gardeners and small farmers**

**MCH is in the planning stages of our 2011 FULL BASKET produce program. We are seeking partners To help us “recover” excess produce from home gardeners and small farmers across our community.**

**How does FULL BASKET work??**

**In previous years, faith communities, community gardens and community centers have volunteered to be “Drop Off” sites - receiving excess veggies once a week on a specified day.**

**MCH trucks then come by “drop off” sites at the end of that day and pick-up the excess produce for distribution to area feeding programs and food pantries! Please join with us as we endeavor to “recover” healthy fresh homegrown produce by sharing your excess and/or volunteering to be a “drop off” site!!**

**DON’T LET YOUR CHANCE TO HELP BE THROWN AWAY!!!!!!!**

**IRL Race Weekend at Barber Motorsports provides excitement.....  
and FOOD for MCH to recover!!!**

The Indy Racing League Ministry will once again partner with Magic City Harvest in collecting perishable foods from IRL race team hospitality kitchens during the weekend of April 8-10 at the Barber Motorsports Track . Many thanks to Rev. Bob Hills of IRL Ministry, who is instrumental in coordinating this effort. IRL Ministry is a partner of local charities recovering food at all of the IRL racing venues across the country. This began several years ago when race team chefs and principals approached the IRL about food waste and hunger. With an IRL 3 year contract at Barber Motorsports, we look forward to having the opportunity to work with the IRL again. Barber Motorsports on site **Five Star Event Catering**, an ongoing donor to MCH, also generously helps fill our truck with excess food at the end of the event weekend.

**OUR DEEP APPRECIATION TO ALL!!**

**THANK YOU....**

**To the following faith communities, Corporations, foundations and special promotions/events ..who provided significant support to MCH in 2010.**

- Canterbury UMC
  - Cathedral Church of the Advent
  - Independent Presbyterian Church
  - Mtn Brook Presbyterian Church
  - St. Luke’s Episcopal Church
  - St. Stephen’s Episcopal Church
  - Vestavia Hills UMC
  - Alabama Power
  - EBSCO
  - Honda Mfg of Alabama
  - RDS
  - St. Vincent’s Health System
  - UAB Hospital
  - Vulcan Materials
  - Share Our Strength
  - Taste of the NFL and Johnson Bros.
  - The Community Fdn of Greater Bham
  - The Goodrich Foundation
  - The Thompson Foundation
  - The Triple Set event
  - The UAB Benevolent Fund
- AND TO ALL WHO GAVE IN-KIND or FINANCIALLY to support MCH!**

**Partnerships that made a difference in 2010!**

**Whole Foods and its patrons**—WF pre-bagged nutritious foods for purchase by customers. MCH received 390 bags of groceries Nov-Dec. Total retail value was \$4,400!!!

**Bham Bake & Cook and its patrons**-who via their annual PIE DAY contest collected \$480 and baked 20 pies for MCH.

**Cory Watson Crowder & Degaris Law Firm**—who for the month of Dec. donated space on their electronic billboard for MCH to raise awareness of hunger in our community .

**Brad Paisley**—who is encouraging fans to donate food at all 2010-2011 concerts! The Bham concert gave MCH the opportunity to collect food and \$\$ donations and the donor of the most food won a meet and greet with Paisley!

**THANK YOU TO ALL OUR FOOD DONORS**  
**Who understand that feeding a person**  
**beats feeding a dumpster!!!!!!!!!!!!**



*Newest truck in MCH fleet—2006 Isuzu NPR  
Formerly owned—80,000 miles*

**In late October 2010, vandals attempted to remove copper wiring from the refrigeration unit on one of our trucks. This resulted in a fire and the totaling of this truck by our insurance carrier. The totaled truck was acquired new in 1999 via local foundation grants and had served MCH well**

**With the insurance settlement of \$10,000 and several designated contributions and after a 6 week national search, MCH was able to purchase the replacement truck pictured above for \$29,000—well below the \$80,000 price of a new refrigerated truck . This truck is 4ft longer and has a larger capacity refrigeration unit.**

**MCH extends its deep gratitude to Cathedral Church of the Advent and an anonymous donor for their generous “truck” gifts!**

**Thank You to our food donors who patiently worked with us for several months—while we operated with one less truck!**

**UAB Rocks!! Students, Faculty,  
Food Service...For their focus on Hunger!**

**MCH has been the recipient of multiple food drives across the campus. We have also been given the opportunity to speak, dialog via classes and special events—raising awareness of the reality of hunger in our community!**