

# Manna Press

Spring 2008

Manna Food Center  
1983 — 2008



## Stuff a Bus and 5% Day at Whole Foods May 14



On **Wednesday, May 14, 2008**, Manna Food Center, Whole Foods Market, and Ride-On will join together to literally stuff Ride-On buses with food

donated by the community.

Ride-On will station a bus at each of the four Montgomery County Whole Foods Markets — Silver Spring, Rockville, Kentlands, and Bethesda. Everyone in the county can be a part of this unique and fun way to celebrate Manna's 25th Anniversary. Help fill those buses with food to feed our hungry neighbors.

In addition to filling those buses with thousands and thousands of pounds of food, **Whole Foods Markets will also generously donate 5% of sales from all four Montgomery County stores to Manna on May 14th.**

Encourage your neighbors, friends, and family to do their grocery shopping at Whole Foods Market on May 14th and to help Stuff a Bus with non-perishable food.

Celebrity Bagger and County Executive Ike Leggett may even bag your groceries. He'll be at the Rockville store from 12:30pm to 1:30pm.



## The Realities of a Rough Economy

It's probably no surprise to you that prices for food and energy have skyrocketed recently. Food prices, especially for staples have increased dramatically over the past year. According to the federal government, bread

prices rose by 12 percent, rice and pasta by 13 percent, cheese by 15 percent, milk by 17 percent, and eggs by 25 percent.

In October, gasoline cost 75 cents a gallon less than it does

now, and there is little chance that prices will stop climbing any time soon.

For working poor families and low-income folks, these price increases are especially devastating. The average household spends 13 percent of its money on food. The budgets of our neighbors with lower incomes have little ability to stretch to accommodate this large price increase in everyday necessities. To compound the problem, wages have increased little if any as prices have soared.

### Don't Forget:

- Do your grocery shopping on May 14th at the Whole Foods Markets in Rockville, Bethesda, Silver Spring, and Kentlands. Five percent of all sales will benefit Manna Food Center.
- Bring your nonperishable food donations to Whole Foods Markets on May 14th and help us stuff a Ride On Bus with food for our hungry neighbors.

*(continued on page 3)*

Thanks to Chris Tylec  
for designing the Stuff-A-Bus logo  
ctylec@yahoo.com

**We extend our sincere appreciation to our generous gala sponsors.**

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## Food Drives

We're impressed by the creative ideas folks devise to collect food and raise funds for Manna.


 Violin students at Stewart's Stellar Strings earned money to donate to Manna for each hour

they practiced.

 Lindy Promotions of Bethesda collected 1,000 pounds of food through its March bar crawls.

 Montgomery Soccer Inc. (MSI) holds its food

drive on May 17-18. Teams donate food at their games and parents from the last game of the day bring it to Manna.

 Bethesda Co-op delivers produce, bread and other perishables twice a week to Manna.

## 500 Backpacks a Week

Who would have thought? Two years ago we distributed 15 backpacks a week to needy kids at Summit Hall Elementary School. Today we provide 500 children a week with Smart Sacks backpacks. Twenty schools and partner organizations now partici-

pate in Smart Sacks, ensuring that hungry elementary school children have food to nourish them on the weekends when school meals are unavailable.

"We are very happy to see the children so happy when they receive their

backpacks every Friday before they go home. They wait with anticipation for the moment when they come to pick up their backpacks," said the staff at Fox Chapel Elementary where 48 children receive backpacks filled with kid-friendly food each week.

## A Rising Need for Food (continued)

While the economists and pundits continue to dicker over whether or not we're in an official recession, we know, based on the staggering increase in the number of people turning to Manna for help, that we are in the throes of a very tough economy. We first noticed this economic mess months before the recession word found its way onto the nightly news as the number of families turning to Manna began to increase in early autumn.

Manna is experiencing a 19.5% increase in the

number of households receiving food. In just the first three months of 2008, 1,000 additional families required help this year compared to the same time frame in 2007. Due to our community's extraordinary support, all 6,479 families who came to Manna January through March walked away with a three to five day supply of nutritious perishable and shelf-stable food.

Unfortunately, there is little to show that these tough economic trends will abate in the near future. We thank you for

the food and funds you have donated — and hope you will continue to contribute — so we will be able to meet this demand and help our most vulnerable neighbors as they struggle in this harsh economic environment.



# A Glorious 25th Anniversary Gala

A recipe for a successful, incredibly fun gala? Two hundred Manna supporters, a swinging band, vast quantities of delicious food and drink from more than a dozen local restaurants, and a silent auction with 75 unique items.

One of the highlights of the evening was Ike Leggett's presentation of a proclamation congratulating Manna Food Center for twenty-five years of excellence. Maryland State Comptroller Peter Franchot also awarded

Manna a certificate for serving the needs of hungry Montgomery County residents so well for so long. Rockville Mayor Susan Hoffman and representatives from Congressman Chris Van Hollen added their appreciation of Manna's continuing fight against hunger.

As King Teddy played its last song of the evening, guests reluctantly set down their martini glasses and dessert plates, wishing this festive and genuinely fun gala would never end.



*Rockville Mayor Susan Hoffman and County Executive Ike Leggett present Manna's Chairman of the Board, Jeff Miller, and Manna's Executive Director, Amy Gabala, with a proclamation honoring Manna's 25 years of feeding hungry residents of Montgomery County.*



*Maryland State Comptroller, Peter Franchot, presents Manna with a special silver anniversary proclamation.*

**Thank You to The Restaurants  
That Provided Such Delectable  
Food and Drink**

- Ambrosia Grille
- Carmen's Italian Ice and Café
- Cheesecake Factory
- Coca-Cola Bottling Company
- Crowne Plaza Hotel Rockville
- Gordon Biersch
- Jaleo
- Il Mulino
- La Miche

- Lebanese Taverna
- Let's Dish!
- Lia's
- L'oustalet
- Mykonos
- O'Donnell's Sea Grill
- Panera Bread Falls Grove
- PGA Tour Grill
- Red Dog Cafe/Dish Caterers/ Kirsten's Café
- Seven Seas Chinese Restaurant
- Sol de Espana
- Timpano Chophouse & Martini Bar



*The talented chefs from Il Mulino serve delicacies from their restaurant.*

*Hunger Heroes Adat Shalom, EU Services, St. Mark Presbyterian Church, Sodexo, and Whole Foods Market receive their Hunger Hero awards.*

**With appreciation to  
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Photography for the  
wonderful  
gala pictures.**



# From a Voice Mail Left February 29, 2008

Hi. I just wanted to thank you so much. My name is Lee, and I just picked up some food about an hour ago or so at the Salvation Army site in Germantown and it's just really good food. I really appreciate it, the

fruit and the fresh spinach.

The last time, a few years ago, when I picked up, it was a lot of white flour things, and they're not good for you. This time, it's really good things, like

ham, salmon, strawberries, blueberries, bread, whole wheat couscous.

I just really appreciate it. I can't tell you how much I appreciate it. I never expect a handout. Anything I get for free I

deeply appreciate. Thank you so much. Please keep providing good quality food. Anyway, thank you. I have a lot of health issues. This really means a lot to me. Thank you so much. Bless you. Bye.



614 Lofstrand Lane  
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**You can help fight hunger and feed hope. We depend upon your support to help our neighbors in need. Consider donating your federal tax rebate so that Manna is able to meet the rising demand for food in our community.**

- \$\_\_\_\_\_     \$1,000     \$500     \$250     \$100     \$50     \$25

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*Thank you very much for your generous support.*