

Hunger Drive 2005 -- September 2005

By: Delaware Congressman Mike Castle

There comes a time when we have to put ourselves in other's shoes and ask how we can realistically help others in pain, even pain we haven't experienced ourselves. I am sure we have all had those busy days when we haven't had the time to fit in lunch or missed breakfast because we're running out the door to work. Imagine that feeling of hunger because of one or two missed meals and then imagine not eating for days. This is the type of hunger we're dealing with for thousands of people down south. This is why I started Hunger Drive 2005.

I find it important to spread this message throughout the state because all Delawareans are capable of giving and always exceed in charity in times of need. Because we are a small state, we understand the importance of helping out a fellow neighbor, a fellow Delawarean, or a fellow American.

What I am asking for does not require you to do anything as drastic as traveling down south to unload trucks or giving a large piece of your paycheck. Though those efforts are outstanding, I am simply asking for you to go to the grocery store and buy a couple of cans of soup or some granola bars and bring them to the drop-off points we have designated with the Food Bank throughout the state. These spots include my Wilmington office, the Milford and Newark branches of the Food Bank and Delaware State University. The University is our newest addition and will hopefully attract everyone in the Dover area to donate resources to our initiative. The drop-off point is located in the Delaware State University parking lot #2 which is right off of the main entrance. There are storage crates available to put your food, which will be guarded at all times. Supplies will be collected through the end of September. Dr. Allen Sessoms, President of Delaware State University, had this to say about the Food Drive; "We are delighted to collaborate on this relief effort with Rep. Castle," Dr. Sessoms said. "We need to pull together as a country to help the people of the Gulf Coast states who have been impacted by Hurricane Katrina, and at Delaware State University we are working diligently to do our part."

Appropriate items to donate include bottled water, hand-held snacks such as granola and energy bars, breakfast bars, beefy jerky, peanut butter, canned meals such as hearty soups, stews, chili, and/or pasta, plates, bowls, cups, and utensils, bleach, disinfecting household cleaning items, and diapers.

It is easy to separate ourselves from the tragedies unfolding down south once we turn off our TV's or put down the newspaper, but it is imperative to remember that it is never ending for the people experiencing the grief firsthand. It does not shut off for them at the end of the day. It doesn't end when they go to bed at night. The hunger continues and we have a chance to try and fix that. Every little bit you give can help to feed one person or help a mother put a clean diaper on her baby. Even though we are not in New Orleans or Mississippi or Alabama, we are all in this together as Americans. Please help by giving to my Hunger Drive 2005 and make a difference in the wake of this national tragedy.