

DRIVE YIELDS MORE THAN 1,200 POUNDS OF FOOD TO FIGHT FORECLOSURE IN DELAWARE -- APRIL 11, 2008

Newark, DE -- After three weeks of community effort, Delaware Congressman Mike Castle and Patricia Beebe of the Food Bank of Delaware are proud to announce that more than 1,200 pounds of food was collected through the "Donating Food to Fight Foreclosure" food drive. Rep. Castle joined the Food Bank of Delaware to help families who struggle to pay monthly bills and face difficult times by providing some basic household needs. Through the food drive, Rep. Castle and the Food Bank led an effort to raise awareness and donations for those who have fallen victim to foreclosure and to help those who are endanger of losing their homes.

More than sixty percent of homeowners are also pet owners, and unfortunately, many families losing their homes are forced to give up their pets, causing an alarming increase in the animal population in local shelters, and sometimes even spurring the decision to leave a pet behind. Rep. Castle and the Food Bank wanted to address this issue by partnering with the Humane Society of the United States, Forgotten Cats, and Faithful Friends to also accept pet food donations to ensure that all family members will benefit from the donations.

"Although we are working in Congress to address the foreclosure crisis, I wanted to highlight the small steps that we in Delaware can take to help out those in need in our community," Rep. Castle said. "I thank all of those who helped by donating food, in particular the JPMorgan Chase employees who continually brought in food day after day. Additionally, I wanted to raise awareness of a growing problem that often goes overlooked; many owners are abandoning their pets after being forced to move out of their homes. We want to encourage owners to take pets along when moving or find a loving neighbor to help, but if forced to give up your pets, it is critical that they be brought to a local shelter where they may be cared for, instead of being left alone in a foreclosed home."

Patricia D. Beebe, President and CEO of the Food Bank of Delaware said, "Alleviating hunger is the first priority for families as they are facing a financial crisis due to foreclosure. All too often hunger is invisible, known mainly to those who experience it and those who attempt to alleviate it. The Food Bank of Delaware is honored to partner with Rep Mike Castle and as always is very fortunate that he is a significant and persistent leader for social justice issues."

The Food Bank of Delaware secures and distributes millions of pounds of food and grocery products annually; and supports 350+ member agencies operating programs such as food pantries, soup kitchens, emergency shelters, after-school programs, and Kids Cafes. Annually, the Food Bank of Delaware provides food assistance to more than 90,000 low-income hungry people in Delaware, including 26,000 children and nearly 7,200 seniors. For more on Food Bank of Delaware, please visit www.fbd.org.

If you are facing foreclosure and are interested in prevention tips and counseling, please call the Homeownership Preservation Foundation's HOPE hotline at 1-888-995-HOPE. For information on shelters and rescue groups who can help with finding housing that will accept pets, visit www.petfinder.org.

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