

For Immediate Release

“Feed My Sheep” – The Society of Mother Theresa, RSVP, and Hunger in Lake County

More than one in ten Lake County citizens turns to a food bank out of need each year. Most – 79% – live below the official poverty level, and many of these face the heartbreaking choice of buying food or paying for transportation, heat, rent, or medical care. One in three of those served are children.

As one of many Lake County food banks, the Society takes the Biblical injunction to “feed my sheep” literally to help fill this great need. The Society's 35 volunteers buy or accept donations of food, cook the meals, seal them into packages, freeze them, and then deliver 10 frozen meals once a week per person for a total of more than 3,900 meals a month to the elderly, the sick, and the long-term unemployed. Their clients are referred to them by churches, the Council on Aging, hospitals, and even the police.

RSVP, the organization that provides volunteers to this and other agencies, fills a critical need for smaller groups like the Mother Theresa Society, providing quality volunteers as well as the administrative work to find, screen, and monitor applicants. But most importantly, volunteers provided by RSVP get fuel cost reimbursement and insurance that small groups can't provide.

“They are a wonderful resource for small volunteer groups like us,” said Marty Hughes of the Society. “With the cost of gasoline going up, no one wants to drive. That gasoline reimbursement is a big reason we like to be involved with RSVP.”

Marty Hughes also said,

“Looking at our increasing demand – and it's growing at better than 10% a year – we need to double our capacity, and that means adding 10 drivers, 3 cooks, and 3 food handlers to our part-time volunteer staff, and we are working with RSVP do do that.”

The Society of Mother Theresa is sponsored and housed by the Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Willoughby. For more information about the Society of Mother Theresa, contact Marty Hughes at _____.

To volunteer with the Society or another organization, contact Cristen Kane, Director, RSVP, at 440-269-3015, or go to www.rsvplc.org.

ABOUT RSVP

RSVP of Lake County matches the skills, talents, and experience of adults aged 55 and over with important community-needed volunteer opportunities. Currently, RSVP of Lake County has over 800 active volunteers serving over 70 non-profits and health care agencies. Our volunteers tutor children, repair roofs and garages, and fill in with office work for over-burdened government agencies and non-profits. They serve on boards of directors, help with fundraising and publicity, drive invalids to medical and other appointments, and they deliver meals-on-wheels to those who can't cook for themselves. The program is funded locally by the Lake County Senior Citizen Services Levy, federally by the Corporation for National and Community Service, and by the Ohio Department of Aging. RSVP has been sponsored since its inception in 1983 by the Willoughby-Eastlake City School District, which provides office space, internet, phones, and bookkeeping services. RSVP's office is in Willoughby at the Willoughby-Eastlake Technical Center of the W-E School District.