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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
CALENDAR ANNOUNCEMENT**

**SAVE THE DATE TO HELP PUT FOOD ON THE TABLE OF
NORTH JERSEY FAMILIES IN NEED**

-- Action Against Hunger™ Food Drive, October 5, 2014 --

WOODLAND PARK, N.J. (September 2, 2014) The North Jersey Media Group Foundation's 23rd Annual [Action Against Hunger™](#) Food Drive is scheduled for Sunday, October 5, 2014, from noon to 4 p.m. It's been five years since the economy took a drastic downturn, and although there are signs of improvement, hunger continues to be critical for many children and families.¹ With cuts in assistance, food banks are struggling to keep enough food stocked to help the thousands in need. In New Jersey, about 879,000 (or 10 percent) of our neighbors live in poverty, and the rate of hunger in children's lives is even more shocking at 14 percent. This rate has continued to increase dramatically since the recession hit.² The need for food and cash is dire. The food drive provides a chance for food donations that can be made at over 100 locations across northern New Jersey, including most local supermarkets. Cash donations can be mailed or made online.

Startling New Jersey statistics are:

- Food insecurity affects 14 percent of all people (1.2 million) and 19 percent of all children (383,000).³
- This year New Jersey, which ranks among the ten worst-rated states in reaching SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) eligible people, saw a .66 percent increase (from 891,684 to 897,138) in program participants between March and April.⁴
- The new changes in SNAP are expected to affect 159,000 New Jersey households, adding to the strain already put on food pantries and social service organizations.⁵

The lead local emergency food-providing agencies that will get food packages to people in need by distributions through 65 local providers include Center for Food Action, Bergen County; CUMAC/ECHO, Passaic County; MEND, Essex County; and the Interfaith Food Pantry, Morris County.

Tax-deductible cash donations can be made online at www.ActionAgainstHunger.com or mailed to North Jersey Media Group Foundation, P.O. Box 75, Hackensack, NJ 07602-9192. For more information about the drive, drop-off sites and how you can help, please visit www.ActionAgainstHunger.com or call 973-569-7683.

Action Against Hunger™ sponsors include *1010 WINS*, A&P, Foodtown, Hackensack University Medical Center, Kings, Pathmark, Scott Graphics, ShopRite, and Stop & Shop.

About North Jersey Media Group Foundation

The North Jersey Media Group Foundation Inc. is a 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to providing charitable funding and services to make a significant difference in the lives of North Jersey residents. It is the charitable arm of North Jersey Media Group.

About North Jersey Media Group

North Jersey Media Group (NJMG) is an independent, family-owned media company providing local news, information and services to the residents of North Jersey. The company is best known for its flagship daily newspaper, *The Record*. [Stephen Borg](#), president of NJMG, is the fourth generation of his family to act as publisher of the award-winning newspaper, which is at the center of the company's extensive local news-gathering operations in print and online. NJMG also publishes the *Herald News*, more than 40 community newspapers, and a family of glossy magazines, including the popular *(201)*, Bergen County's first and only monthly magazine. All of the publications contribute breaking news, features, columns and local information to NorthJersey.com. The company also owns [Bergen.com](#), showcasing the people, places and events that make Bergen County unique.

North Jersey Media Group also includes a state-of-the-art printing facility, which produces its own publications and those of select other publishers.

¹ Hunger in America: 2014 US Hunger & Poverty Facts, http://www.worldhunger.org/articles/Learn/us_hunger_facts.htm

² <http://feedingamerica.org/foodbank-results.aspx?zip=07006>

³ Feeding America, Map the Meal Gap 2013 Study; http://feedingamerica.org/hunger-in-america/hunger-studies/map-the-meal-gap/~/_media/Files/a-map-2012/overall%20reports/NJ_AllCountiesMMG_2012.ashx

⁴ Food Research and Action Center; http://frac.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/01/snapdata2014_apr.pdf

⁵ <http://www.njspotlight.com/stories/14/07/06/overburdened-nj-food-pantries-challenged-to-feed-more-hungry-clients/?p=all>