



MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Jessica Aranda

Tel: 646-1261

Email: jaranda@caritasofaustin.org

Caritas Leads Discussion on State of Hunger in Texas

WHAT: Caritas of Austin and The Basic Needs Coalition of Central Texas (BNC) are hosting the fourth annual Faith Poverty Roundtable. This year's theme is "Collaborative Solutions to Hunger". The event will serve as an educational forum for faith leaders, ministerial staff, and fellow community members who deal directly with food services in the nonprofit arena.

The Poverty Roundtable will feature: discussions on the state of hunger and food availability in Texas and the Austin Metropolitan area; knowledge about food resources and access to food in Austin; and effective community models to reduce the impact of hunger. Break-out sessions during the event will also allow participants to hear from panelists representing local nonprofit and faith-based food providers.

Those who attend will learn about the gaps in food resources and explore collaborative ways of addressing food security in the Austin area.

WHEN: Wednesday, February 13th, 2008

9:40 Check-In and Meet and Greet

10:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

WHERE: Mexican American Cultural Center, 600 River Street

WHO: Speakers will include: Celia Hagert with the Center for Public Policy Priorities, Cynthia Nunez Colbert, Executive Director of Catholic Charities and various leaders from both the faith and nonprofit communities like Caritas of Austin, Meals on Wheels, Sustainable Food Center, and the Capital Area Food Bank. Austin's own The Gospel Silvertones will also be in attendance performing during Check-In.

WHY: Since 1964, Caritas has assisted with emergency basic needs such as food, rent and utilities and helped clients learn the skills they need to gain self-sufficiency. This year, Caritas will serve over 20,000 adults and children as Travis County's largest source of non-governmental assistance for low-income families. Caritas is an integral part of the community's social services network. caritasofaustin.org.