

## NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
August 17, 2009

Contact: Mitzi Miller  
304-558-0111 or (800) WV-HELPS  
[.miller@wv.gov](mailto:.miller@wv.gov)

### STATEWIDE FOOD DRIVE CULMINATES ON NEW NATIONAL DAY OF SERVICE

**West Virginia** – Hunger has long been a critical issue in our state and West Virginians have an opportunity to help fight the issue through a statewide canned food drive this September. September is Hunger Action Month, a nationwide effort to mobilize people to get involved in ending hunger in America.

As a result of the Serve America Act signed earlier this year by President Obama, September 11 is officially a National Day of Service and Remembrance as part of the new *United We Serve* initiative. The initiative encourages everyone throughout the nation to become civically engaged through volunteerism. Individuals, private sector businesses, labor and nonprofit organizations, and business and professional associations are encouraged to participate in a statewide food drive, which will culminate on September 11.

According to *Bread for the World's* hunger statistics, “35.5 million people—including 12.6 million children—live in households that experience hunger or the risk of hunger. This represents more than one in ten households in the United States.”

Businesses, individuals, and organizations in the mountain state are encouraged to organize food drives as part of the effort. Participants can deliver food to drop-off locations on September 11. Multiple sites, including Wal-Mart, Kroger, Weis Markets and AT&T stores, will serve as collection points. For a full list of drop-off locations, visit [.volunteerwv.org](http://volunteerwv.org).

The West Virginia Business Volunteer Council, along with Huntington Area Food Bank and Mountaineer Food Bank, will collect the food and distribute it to needy families statewide. Volunteers can help their local food bank win a tractor-trailer of Kraft food by logging onto [.hungeractioncenter.org](http://hungeractioncenter.org) and registering the hours they volunteer in September during the drive.

For more information, contact Emily Schoen at (304) 558-0111, (800) WV-HELPS or [.r.schoen@wv.gov](mailto:r.schoen@wv.gov), or visit [.volunteerwv.org](http://volunteerwv.org).

*The West Virginia Business Volunteer Council (BVC) is a statewide initiative open to all private sector businesses, labor organizations, nonprofit organizations, as well as business and professional associations. The BVC is the way for the private sector to join government and non-profits in building a better West Virginia through volunteer service. The BVC is a primary resource for encouraging, educating, and connecting businesses that support employee volunteer programs as a business strategy.*

*The BVC partners with Volunteer West Virginia, the state's Commission for National and Community Service, which provides critical administrative resources, guidance, and support, in addition to access to hundreds of non-profit agencies in the Mountain State through [.volunteerwv.org](http://volunteerwv.org). To learn more about the West Virginia Business Volunteer Council, visit [.volunteerwv.org](http://volunteerwv.org).*

###