St. Joseph's Food Pantry Fact Sheet

The mission of St. Joseph's Food Pantry is to alleviate hunger with special attention to the elderly and to children. In operation for 23 years, the Pantry serves an average of 1,000 families North Shore families a month. It supplies approximately 2,000 individuals each month with a 3-6 day food supply. Focusing on families in Salem, Peabody, Beverly, and Danvers, the Pantry serves 22,000 pounds of food every month.

Today, St. Joseph's along with food banks nationwide are facing a perfect storm of rising food costs, lower donations due to the economic downturn, and a growing number of hungry families. This winter, many families will have to choose between and food as their incomes won't support both – **it's heat or eat**. Some recent facts:

- 522,000 struggle to put food on the table in MA.
- Survey research sponsored by Project Bread found fully one-third of school children in high poverty communities live in food-insecure families.
- Data currently being collected from Food for Families reveal **more than 70 percent of the families in low income areas (including the North Shore) have run out of money to make a meal. Nearly one third of the families say they cut the size of their children's meals or a child missed a meal because there was not enough money**.
- In 2007, the Pantry distributed 731 Thanksgiving dinners to families and individuals in need. In 2008, 1075 dinners were distributed.
- Due to increased need, up to 1,200 families will apply for assistance during this upcoming holiday season.
- Today, the Pantry needs your financial support. Donations are down and demand is increasing daily, due to the economic recession.

How Can You Help Your North Shore Neighbors?

- *$25 will feed an entire family for a holiday meal*
- *$5 provides a turkey for a family*
- *Corporate sponsorships of $500 can ensure the future of St. Joseph's*
- *Join others in your North Shore community that want to make a difference at a fundraiser for St. Joseph's Food Pantry on March 6, 2009.*