

Contact: Jon Malavolti
Stellantis

Shawn Morgan
Stellantis

John Owens
Forgotten Harvest
(248) 967-1500
ext.126 (office)
(248) 881-9937 (cell)
jowens@forgottenharvest.org

Detroit Public Library, Forgotten Harvest and The Chrysler Foundation Partner to Feed Hungry Young Minds

After School Reading Program Provides Students With Nourishment for Body and Mind

September 3, 2013, Detroit -

It is widely recognized that children cannot concentrate and learn when they're hungry.

In response, the Detroit Public Library (DPL), Forgotten Harvest and The Chrysler Foundation have partnered to provide free nutritious snacks to school-aged children who attend after school reading programs at DPL sites throughout the city.

"This partnership enables DPL librarians to combat hunger in the city of Detroit for those most vulnerable, our children, through the distribution of healthy food, thereby enhancing their chances to benefit from the literacy programs provided by the Detroit Public Library," said Patrice Merritt, executive director, Detroit Public Library Friends Foundation.

Food for Thought

The idea for the program evolved after a series of unrelated meetings between representatives of The Chrysler Foundation, the Detroit Public Library and Forgotten Harvest.

"When Patrice (Merritt) explained that children in their reading program often suffered from poor attention due to the lack of adequate nutrition, I knew there was an opportunity for the three organizations to work together and make a difference for children in Detroit," said Brian Glowiak, vice president – The Chrysler Foundation. Coincidentally, Glowiak had met with Susan Goodell, president and CEO – Forgotten Harvest, a week earlier to get an update on their operations.

Initially, The Chrysler Foundation provided Forgotten Harvest with a grant to source, prepare and deliver a nutritious lunches for the final sessions of the 2012 summer reading program. Following the successful pilot, The Chrysler Foundation increased its support in 2013 to \$74,000 in order to provide lunches for the summer reading program and snacks for the after school reading program.

In recent years, according to Merritt, participation in the summer reading program has been stagnant. However, due in part to the lunch program, the number of children participating increased in 2013 to 6,598 – up 23 percent from 2012. And while the further impact on families has not been measured, Merritt said that the number of children accompanied by a parent or adult also has increased and that it's not uncommon for them to take part in the food program too. In total, 11,000 lunches were served over a 10-week period this summer.

"It is difficult for children or adults, for that matter, to concentrate and learn when they are hungry," said Susan Goodell. "Our partnership with the Detroit Public Library and The Chrysler Foundation provides an ideal opportunity to provide nourishing food to hungry children, which ideally will enhance their chances to learn and grow." For years, Forgotten Harvest has made it a top priority to target their services to children.

After School Snacks

This week, as students return to school, the reading program will shift from providing lunch to providing after school snacks. During the 2013-2014 school year, more than 2,000 snacks per week will be distributed to children at 20 library branch locations. Typically, snacks are comprised of fruit, a drink, and a nutritious item such as yogurt.

“Our librarians see hunger daily in our branches and understand that an after school snack may be for some the last meal of the day,” stated Lurine Carter, Coordinator of Children’s Services at the Detroit Public Library.

The snacks also are available to children on days when Detroit Public Schools are closed and during special DPL-sponsored programs.

For more information about the Detroit Public Library After School Reading program, please contact one of the following branches:

- Bowen**,3648 W. Vernor (313) 481-1540
- Conley**,4600 Martin (313) 481-1590
- Campbell**,8733 W. Vernor (313) 481-1550
- Chandler Park**,12800 Harper (313) 481-1563
- Chase**,17731 W. Seven Mile Rd. (313) 481-1580
- Chaney**,16101 Grand River (313) 481-1570
- Douglass**,3666 Grand River (313) 481-1703
- Duffield**,2507 W. Grand Blvd. (313) 481-1710
- Edison**,18400 Joy Rd. (313) 481-1720
- Elmwood Park**,550 Chene (313) 481-1731
- Franklin**,13651 E. McNichols (313) 481-1741
- Hubbard**,12929 W. McNichols (313) 481-1752
- Jefferson**,12350 E. Outer Dr. (313) 481-1760
- Knapp**,13330 Conant (313) 481-1773
- Parkman**,1766 Oakman Blvd. (313) 481-1812
- Redford**,21200 Grand River (313) 481-1820
- Sherwood Forest**,7117 W. Seven Mile Rd. (313) 481-1843
- Skillman**,121 Gratiot (313) 481-1853
- Wilder**,7140 E. Seven Mile Rd. (313) 481-1873
- Main Library**,5201 Woodward Ave.
 - **Children’s Library** (313) 481-1408 and **Teen HYPE Center** (313) 481-1360

Since Chrysler Group LLC was formed in 2009, The Chrysler Foundation and the Company have provided more than \$6.7 million in charitable donations and multi-year commitments to organizations/programs located in Detroit.

“Chrysler has always believed in Detroit,” said Jody Trapasso, Vice President External Affairs – Chrysler Group LLC and President of The Chrysler Foundation. “We will continue to devote our time, talents and innovative spirit to help ensure a bright future for its residents.”

About Forgotten Harvest

Forgotten Harvest was formed in 1990 to fight two problems: hunger and waste. Forgotten Harvest “rescued” more than 45.5 million pounds of food last year by collecting surplus prepared and perishable food from 455 sources, including grocery stores, fruit and vegetable markets, restaurants, caterers, dairies, farmers, wholesale food distributors and other Health Department-approved sources. This donated food, which would otherwise go to waste, is delivered free-of-charge to more than 260 emergency food providers in the metro Detroit area.

Learn more about Forgotten Harvest and how to help drive hunger from its community at www.forgottenharvest.org.

About The Chrysler Foundation

The Chrysler Foundation, the charitable arm of Chrysler Group LLC, has established a proud legacy of empowering people in the communities where we live and work. The Chrysler Foundation focuses on four key areas through its grant application process and volunteer activities: Education: K-12 and post-secondary education initiatives that encourage the study and pursuit of careers in business, design, science, technology, engineering, mathematics or

supply-chain management; Military: support for the nation's service members and their families in need; Multicultural / Diversity: initiatives that promote inclusion and advancement opportunities for diverse populations; and Youth Development: organizations and programs that provide mentoring and related assistance to aid youth in the transition to adulthood.

Since its inception in 1953, The Chrysler Foundation has awarded more than \$500 million in charitable grants.

-###-

Additional information and news from Stellantis are available at: <https://media.stellantisnorthamerica.com>