



**CONTACT: Sharon Reilly-Tobin, Director
Emergency Food and Nutrition Network
973-266-7941**

SEVENTH ANNUAL ESSEX COUNTY WALK TO END HUNGER 2010

Sponsored by
Emergency Food & Nutrition Network of Catholic Charities and
Meeting Emergency Needs with Dignity

NEWARK, NJ – On Friday, May 7, 2010 Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Newark (CCAN) will join food pantries, religious and community organizations, in the **Seventh Annual Essex County Walk To End Hunger 2010**. Sponsored by the Emergency Food and Nutrition Network (EFNN) of Catholic Charities and Meeting Emergency Needs with Dignity (MEND), the walk will begin at 12 noon (rain or shine) in Washington Park, Newark. Walkers will proceed down Broad Street to the corner of 50 Walnut Street and then walk back to Washington Park.

The purpose of the walk is to increase awareness about the increasing problem of hunger in Essex County and raise funds for hungry families who come to the pantries for help. “Walkers will ask friends, co-workers, neighbors and family to pledge monetary support to help fight hunger in Essex County,” said Sharon Reilly-Tobin, Director of the Emergency Food and Nutrition Network at Catholic Charities. “Proceeds from the Essex County Walk To End Hunger will be used solely for the purchase of food to stock participating pantries” she added.

“With the severe downturn in the economy, donations are down dramatically” explained Mrs. Sharon Reilly-Tobin. “Pantries are hard-pressed to serve the increasing number of people coming for assistance. Much of the increase is due to a new group of clients coming for help..People who suddenly lost their job, had their hours reduced or have gone from two sources of income to only one or none find themselves coming to pantries for emergency food for their families .Only with the public’s generous support will we meet the increasing need during this difficult time.”

The day of the Walk there will be a brief rally at 12:00, noon. At this time the 25 pantries participating in the Walk and donors will be recognized in the Roll Call of Support.

If you are unable to walk on May 7th but wish to contribute to this worthy cause, please send donations to Emergency Food and Nutrition Network of Catholic Charities, 37 Evergreen Place, East Orange, NJ 07018-2154. Checks should be made payable to the EFNN/MEND Hunger Walk. Those interested in participating may also wish to organize a walk around their business, church, synagogue or mosque on May 8th or 9th. For more information, please contact Sharon Reilly-Tobin at 973-266-7941 or visit the MEND website : www.mendnj.org Press Release Walk A H 09