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**EMERGENCY FOOD AND NUTRITION NETWORK OF CATHOLIC CHARITIES
SPONSORS SIXTH ANNUAL ESSEX COUNTY WALK TO END HUNGER 2009**

NEWARK, NJ – On Friday, May 1, 2009 Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Newark (CCAN) will join food pantries, religious and community organizations, in the Sixth Annual Essex County Walk To End Hunger 2009. 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 poverty 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 during the summer months, when supplies are always low,” she added.

“With the severe downturn in the economy, church food pantries need the community help now more than ever,” explained Mrs. Sharon Reilly-Tobin. “Pantries are hard-pressed to serve the increasing number of people coming for assistance. Only with the public’s support will be able to provide this vital service to the needy.”

The day of the Walk there will be a brief rally at 12:00, noon. At this time the 26 pantries participating in the Walk and all corporate donors will be recognized in the Roll Call of Support. A representative from Rutgers Against Hunger will address the walkers in Washington Park.

If you are unable to walk on May 1st 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. Those interested in participating may also wish to organize a walk around their business, church, synagogue or mosque on May 2nd or 3rd. For more information, please contact Sharon Reilly-Tobin at 973-266-7941.