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Free March Community Meal March 26

Summary: Community and campus volunteers will prepare and serve the final meal of the semester

(March 26, 2012)-Morris Community Meal will highlight a hot dish themed meal at the Morris Senior Community Center for the last Community Meal of the year on Monday, March 26, 2012. The project serves warm, made-from-scratch meals each month, which are open to all members of the Stevens County community. This month, volunteers will collaborate with Kiwanis and Bank of the West.

Community Meal is open to every member of the Stevens County community and entirely free of charge. Food options for people with special diets, such as gluten-free, diabetic, vegan and vegetarian, are always available, as are child friendly options. Meals are served from 5:30 until 7 p.m. one Monday each month while the University is in session. The Morris Senior Community Center is located at 603 Oregon Avenue in Morris.

Since its inception in January 2009, Community Meal has established a reputation for its delicious menus and the warm, welcoming atmosphere that accompanies each meal. The project has come to be a valued event in the community, providing free meals to hundreds of Stevens County residents and opening community space to build bridges and strengthen existing connections. In serving the meal, the sponsors hope to initiate new connections among community members and provide a free warm meal to those who may not normally be afforded one.

Support for Community Meal is provided by a broad coalition of local businesses and organizations. This spring, the collaborating and sponsoring organizations include: Pomme de Terre Food Co-op, Willie's Supervalu, Morris Senior Community Center, Morris Human Rights Commission, Morris Lions Club, Morris Kiwanis, Bank of the West, UMM Office of Community Engagement, UMM Office of Equity, Diversity, and Intercultural Programs, and the Stevens Community Medical Center.

Organizers are looking for businesses and community organizations that would like to serve as meal sponsors next year, as well as volunteers to help cook. Community members can come to the Morris Senior Center between 2 and 5 p.m. on the day of the meal to help out, or Sunday night from 2 until 7 p.m. To get involved as a sponsor or volunteer, contact the Office of Community Engagement at 320-589-6457 or email jdeardor@morris.umn.edu.

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