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University Relations

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Contact

Melissa Weber, Director of Communications  
Phone: 320-589-6414, [weberm@morris.umn.edu](mailto:weberm@morris.umn.edu)

Jenna Ray, Editor/Writer  
Phone: 320-589-6068, [jrray@morris.umn.edu](mailto:jrray@morris.umn.edu)

**Free Community Meal to feature traditional Mexican fare**

*Summary: Community and campus volunteers will prepare and serve the meal.*

(November 1, 2011)-Morris Community Meal will highlight traditional Mexican dishes at the Morris Senior Community Center for November's free meal on Monday, November 14, 2011. 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 UMM's Office of Equity, Diversity, and Intercultural Programs and LAZOS, an organization dedicated to helping Latino immigrants build relationships within Stevens County.

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 7:30 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 autumn, the collaborating and sponsoring organizations include: Pomme de Terre Food Co-op, Willies Super Valu, Conway, Deeth, and Schmiesing, Morris Healthy Eating, Morris Senior Community Center, the Office of Community Engagement, LAZOS, and the Office of Equity, Diversity, and Intercultural Programs.

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 1:30 and 5 p.m. on the day of the meal to help out, or Sunday night from 4 until 9 p.m. To get involved as a sponsor or volunteer, contact the Office of Community Engagement at 320-589-6276 or [email](#).

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