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Free September Community Meal to feature chili

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

(September 22, 2011)-Morris Community Meal will be highlighting chili at the Morris Senior Community Center for September's Community Meal on Monday, September 26, 2011. The project serves warm, made-from-scratch meals each month, which are open to all members of the Stevens County community. This month, ongoing volunteers will collaborate with Conway, Deuth, and Schmiesing to serve chili, including a vegan and gluten-free option, homemade bread, coleslaw, and apple crisp.

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. This year, meals will be served from 5:30 until 7 p.m. on the last Monday of each month when the University is in session. The Morris Senior Community Center is located at 603 Oregon Avenue in Morris.

Since its inception in 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. Community meal strives to support the local economy by purchasing all foods from local farmers, Willie's, and the Pomme de Terre Food Co-op.

Support for Community Meal is provided by a broad coalition of local businesses and organizations. This fall, the collaborating and sponsoring organizations include: Pomme de Terre Food Co-op, Willies Super Valu, Conway, Deuth, and Schmiesing, Morris Healthy Eating, Morris Senior Community Center, UMM's 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, as well as volunteers to help cook. Community members can come to the Morris Senior Center between 1 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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