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March free Community Meal to feature pizza

Summary: Morris Area Student Leaders are sponsoring the event and working with community and campus volunteers to prepare and serve the meal.

(March 28, 2011)-With support from the Morris Area Student Leaders, Morris Community Meal will serve pizza at the Morris Senior Community Center on Monday, March 28, 2011. The Morris Area Student Leaders provided financial funds through a grant from Otto Bremer Foundation and will prepare the meal with University of Minnesota, Morris students, and campus and community volunteers.

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 the University is in session. The remaining dates are March 28 and April 18. The Morris Senior Community Center is located at 603 Oregon Avenue in Morris.

Support for Community Meal is provided by a broad coalition of local businesses and organizations. This spring, the collaborating and sponsoring organizations include: The Senior Nutrition Center, Pomme de Terre Food Co-op, Morris Student Leaders, Willie's Super Valu, Lions International, The Otto Bremer Foundation, Bello Cucina, the University of Minnesota, Morris Office of Community Engagement, and alumni and friends of the University of Minnesota, Morris.

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

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.

Through personal and academic discovery, the University of Minnesota, Morris provides opportunities for students to grow intellectually, engage in community, experience environmental stewardship and celebrate diversity. A renewable and sustainable educational experience, Morris prepares graduates for careers, for advanced degrees, for lifelong learning, for work world flexibility in the future, and for global citizenship. Learn more about Morris at morris.umn.edu or call 888-866-3382.