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Free February Community Meal to feature Minnesota favorites

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

(February 15, 2011)-Morris Community Meal will highlight Minnesota favorites at the Morris Senior Community Center for February's Community Meal on Monday, February, 28, 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 Lions International and the Otto Bremer Foundation to serve several types of casserole dishes. Hometown Hot Dish is also a sponsor.

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—February 28, March 28, and April 18. 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: 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](#).

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