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Hunger knows no boundaries: Annual Hunger Banquet is Nov. 18

Summary:

(December 6, 2004)-"Hunger, for things, is the supreme disease." So reads a well-known piece of wisdom of Buddha. Current estimates show that of the 842 million people going hungry in the world today, 798 million of them live in developing nations. In actuality, only a small percentage of hunger deaths are caused by starvation. Most hunger-related deaths are the result of chronic malnutrition, which weakens the body's ability to ward off diseases, prevalent in poverty-stricken communities. Most hungry people have some food, just not enough food or enough of the right kinds of food. However, hunger is not a problem isolated to poorer nations last year, 34.9 million people in the United States did not have access to enough food for an active healthy life. Widespread hunger and poverty are problems for any nation in today's world.

In an attempt to raise general awareness on hunger and poverty issues, Minnesota Public Interest Research Group (MPIRG) at the University of Minnesota Morris will co-sponsor the third annual Hunger Banquet on Thursday, Nov. 18, at 6:30 p.m. in Oyate Hall of the UMM Student Center. A hunger banquet is meant to simulate the unequal distribution of food and wealth across the globe. The interactive format of the banquet helps bring relatively distant global issues into an understandable and personal setting where learning is very hands-on, and often times quite moving.

The cost of entrance is \$1 for students and \$3 for non-students. All proceeds from the dinner event will go toward Oxfam America, a Boston-based international development and relief agency and an affiliate of Oxfam International. Working with local partners, Oxfam delivers development programs and emergency relief services, and campaigns for change in global practices and policies that keep people in poverty.

E-Quality, Morris Episcopal Campus Ministries, Sodexo Campus Services, and the Campus Activities Council, all of UMM, are also co-sponsors of the event. Eagen Heath will play the banjo before and after the dinner. In addition, there will be a number of speakers on topics related to hunger and poverty in today's society.

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.