



NEWS FROM:

The Office of Mayor Ron Dellums

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MAYOR RON DELLUMS, CITY STAFF COMBAT HUNGER BY SERVING THOUSANDS AT ANNUAL HOLIDAY MEAL

OAKLAND, CA – Mayor Ron Dellums today announced that the City of Oakland, in partnership with the Department of Human Services, Communities United Committee and the Emergency Food Providers Committee, will participate in the 17th annual Thanksgiving Dinner. This annual, citywide event seeks to end hunger and homelessness tomorrow, Tuesday, November 25, 2008, from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Oakland Marriott City Center, 1001 Broadway in downtown Oakland.

The free turkey feast will provide a nutritious meal and entertainment to more than 2,000 low-income families, seniors and homeless individuals and provide guests the opportunity to obtain a winter coat/jacket if needed. Volunteers will serve a delicious and nutritious dinner with all the trimmings while guests enjoy live entertainment and cultural presentations.

Mayor Ron Dellums said: “The economic downturn has only exacerbated the tremendous suffering that low-income and homeless members of our community experience during the holiday season and through the winter months. Oakland’s annual Thanksgiving dinner is an opportunity for us to open our hearts and share solace by serving a warm meal and giving a warm coat. This volunteer-run event brings out the best in our community and is supported by donations, large and small, from hundreds of neighborhood volunteers in a spirit of giving and fellowship. I am delighted that community has come together in an outpouring of support to serve those who may be hungry and cold.”

Major sponsors of the 17th Annual Thanksgiving Dinner are the State Street Foundation, the City of Oakland’s Community Action Agency, the Department of Human Services’ Hunger Program, Oakland Para-transit Program, Oakland Marriott City Center and the many concerned citizens of Oakland and the Bay Area.

Donations are greatly appreciated, as this event is entirely supported by gifts from agencies and individual donors. This event as well as other efforts to alleviate hunger in Oakland is reliant upon support from the community. To make a donation, call the Department of Human Services’ Hunger and Homeless Program at 510-986-2721. Donations are tax deductible and the tax identification number is 94-6000384.