

For Immediate Release

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Food Bank and Humane Society Team Up for Joint Fundraising Hike in Holland

Comstock Park, Michigan — April 8, 2013 — All creatures share a common need — food. That's why [Feeding America West Michigan Food Bank](#) and [Harbor Humane Society](#) are joining forces to host a fundraiser in Holland this spring.

The [Million Meal March 5K Hike](#) will be held on May 18 at the [Outdoor Discovery Center](#). This all-ages, all-abilities fundraising hike is a fun and easy way for the community to get involved in the fight against hunger and animal neglect in West Michigan.

"Our organization shares a mutual respect for all creatures and the belief that we are responsible for caring for those who cannot care for themselves," said Sue Ann Culp, development director of Harbor Humane Society. "We care for families, and from [our] perspective, animals are part of the family fabric of our community."

Funds raised through the Million Meal March 5K Hike will be divided equally between Harbor Humane and Feeding America West Michigan, which provides food to more than 90 hunger relief agencies in Ottawa County.

The Million Meal March campaign was first announced by Feeding America West Michigan last summer. Its goal is to raise \$238,000, enough for the Food Bank to distribute an additional 1 million meals to food-insecure households throughout West Michigan and the Upper Peninsula.

Though the Food Bank's territory covers more than 60 percent of Michigan, most of its fundraising events have focused on Kent County, where the organization is headquartered. Both Feeding America West Michigan and Harbor Humane see the Million Meal March 5K Hike as a way to bring their message to a broader audience while funding their individual missions.

“It’s been a tough climate for nonprofits financially,” said Ken Estelle, CEO of Feeding America West Michigan. “There are so many worthy causes out there, and we thought, by working together we could do more than either of us could do alone.”

The Food Bank and the Humane Society also see harmony in their missions.

“From our perspective, families who cannot afford adequate food obviously cannot feed cherished pets, which causes them to either release them where they become strays — which poses a threat to community health and safety — or surrender them,” Culp said.

“A caring society takes care of the least among us, and that includes people and animals.”

Registration on the 18th opens at 9:30 a.m., and the hike begins at 10 a.m. Leashed dogs are welcome to accompany their owners. Participants are encouraged to sign up online, where they can learn more about the organizations, donate and find resources for gathering personal sponsorships.

About Feeding America West Michigan Food Bank. One of the nation’s largest and most effective food banks, Feeding America West Michigan reclaims edible surplus food from farmers, manufacturers, distributors and retailers. It stores, processes and distributes that food through 1,250 local food pantries and other hunger relief agencies in 40 West Michigan counties. More than 100,000 West Michigan families rely on food from Feeding America West Michigan Food Bank. For more information, visit <http://www.feedingamericawestmichigan.org/>.

About Harbor Humane Society. Harbor Humane Society’s mission is to provide a safe harbor for animals entrusted to our care as we strive to secure their futures through our outreach and educational programs. We have been helping people help animals since 1956. HHS cares for approximately 5,000 lost, abused, injured, sick and abandoned animals yearly, providing medical care, nutritious food, shelter, love, and re-homing services. Ottawa County has no municipal shelter, so Harbor Humane works closely with safety officers to protect the health and safety of the public posed by stray animals, and to place those pets in loving, permanent homes. For more information, visit <http://www.harborhumane.org/>.