



Lutheran
Social
Services
of
Central
Ohio

MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 20, 2009

CONTACT:

Jennifer Hamilton, Director of Communications
614-228-5200, ext. 1510
jhamilton@lssco.org

LSS KICKS OFF MOBILE FOOD PANTRY IN LAWRENCE COUNTY

IRONTON, Ohio – Seeking to provide much-needed aid to people in Appalachian Ohio, the Lutheran Social Services of Central Ohio (LSS) mobile food pantry will visit Lawrence County on February 26 at St. Paul Lutheran Church, 101 S. Sixth St., Ironton, OH, 45638, from 12:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

The mobile pantry will visit the area on the second and fourth Thursday of every month and will serve 100 qualifying Lawrence County residents per trip. Each client may use the pantry once per month and will receive a three-day supply of food. Identification for every family member must be shown each visit and clients are asked to bring their own box or bags to carry the provided food.

Those looking to use the pantry must have a referral from FirstLink, a nonprofit organization that works to improve lives. A referral, which is available one week prior to the pantry's visitation date, can be received by calling 1-877-704-3663 on Mondays, Wednesdays or Fridays from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. The line is also open on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

"Many southeast Ohio residents are in need of food assistance, and a number of pantries in the region have closed or are struggling to provide for their families. It is extremely difficult for families during these tough times," said Barb Packer, corporate director of food pantry services. "Our mobile food pantry truck will help alleviate that burden for 200 Lawrence County residents each month, and we hope to increase that number as we progress in this endeavor."

Lutheran Social Services of Central Ohio (LSS) is a health and human service agency serving thousands of people each day throughout central, southeast and northeast Ohio. LSS provides food pantries, homeless shelters, senior living, affordable housing communities and other programs and services that uplift families and strengthen communities. LSS is affiliated with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, recognized by the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod, and a charter member of Lutheran Social Services in America.