



For Immediate Release

2 BILL EMERSON NATIONAL HUNGER FELLOWS TO ASSIST ARIZONA COMMUNITY ACTION ASSOCIATION AND ASSOCIATION OF ARIZONA FOOD BANKS IN STRUGGLE AGAINST HUNGER

Focus Will Be To Provide Information, Awareness, Services to Hispanic/Latino Communities

PHOENIX, Ariz. (July 25, 2010): Two Fellows from the Bill Emerson National Hunger Fellowship, a project of The Congressional Hunger Center, will spend six months in Arizona providing outreach, advocacy and awareness in the battle against hunger.

The Bill Emerson National Hunger Fellowship selects and assigns 20 participants to community-based organizations nationwide for the 11-month project to develop effective leaders with a deep understanding of hunger and poverty at both the local and national level to enable them to find innovative solutions and create the political will to end hunger.

The Fellows will work with the Arizona Community Action Association (ACAA) and the Association of Arizona Food Banks (AAFB) to increase information about and access to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) in Arizona Hispanic and Latino communities and identify barriers to enrollment, ensure maximum participation and address how to overcome the challenges.

“With only 20 Fellows selected, we are very fortunate to have two of these young people working with us in Arizona to find creative and innovative ways to address hunger and poverty,” said ACAA Executive Director Cynthia Zwick. “The outcome will be twofold: agencies in Arizona will have tangible resources and information we can use over the long-term and the Fellows will gain intense, hands-on experience as they move on with their respective careers.”

The two Fellows assigned to Arizona are Marie Lawrence, who earned a Public Policy Studies degree from Duke University, and Matthew Mellon, a 2009 Xavier University graduate with a Bachelor of Arts in history and minors in economics, environmental studies and peace studies.

Lawrence, whose community involvement includes work with the Duke-Durham Hunger Alliance and as a food policy analyst with the Office of the Mayor of New York, will work with the ACAA. Mellon,

Advocating, Educating and Partnering to Prevent and Alleviate Poverty.

2700 N. 3rd Street Suite 3040 Phoenix, Arizona 85004 TEL 602 604 0640 FAX 602 604 0644 WEB www.azcaa.org



who directed the Xavier University Summer Service Program and has worked as a Lutheran Volunteer Corps member at the Washington, D.C. Employment Justice Center, will work with AAFB.

“One of the critical outcomes of this project is to develop strategies for ACAA and AAFB and our community partners to become more effective in meeting the needs of the Hispanic/Latino communities in Arizona,” said AAFB President and CEO Ginny Hildebrand. “We want to break down barriers for participation in programs and access to services that help low-income families in our communities.”

Lawrence and Mellon will be in Arizona from September through February 2011 and then go to Washington, D.C. to work with national organizations involved in the anti-hunger and poverty movements including national advocacy organizations, think tanks and federal agencies.

For more information about the project, visit www.hungercenter.org. For more information about the Arizona Community Action Association, visit www.azcaa.org. For more information about the Association of Arizona Food Banks, visit www.azfoodbanks.org

Advocating, Educating and Partnering to Prevent and Alleviate Poverty.

2700 N. 3rd Street Suite 3040 Phoenix, Arizona 85004 TEL 602 604 0640 FAX 602 604 0644 WEB www.azcaa.org