

Dear Friend, Thank you for reading another edition of my weekly e-newsletter, the Carson Courier. For additional information on these and other topics, please visit my website at <http://www.carson.house.gov>.

In this week's Carson Courier:
Helping America's Displaced Workers
Combating Hunger

HELPING AMERICA'S DISPLACED WORKERS

The Department of Labor recently announced that 240,000 jobs were lost across the United States in October, bringing the 2008 total to nearly 1.2 million. In Indiana alone, over 80,000 Hoosiers have lost their jobs this year. With the recent announcements of future layoffs by General Motors, Citigroup, and numerous other large employers across the country, it has become clear that the United States is facing its worst economic downturn in almost 70 years. Americans everywhere are bracing for an extended and deepening recession and hundreds of thousands are preparing for unemployment.

In an effort to combat prolonged unemployment, I recently supported legislation that authorizes extending unemployment benefits up to 59 weeks in order to assist displaced workers needing additional time to find sustainable employment. As unemployment in Indiana continues to rise above national levels, this newly enacted law will help nearly 17,000 unemployed Hoosiers to pay their bills and cover their daily expenses by providing 20 additional weeks of unemployment benefits.

COMBATING HUNGER

This holiday season as food prices are rising at astonishingly high rates, many families are struggling to put food on their tables and make ends meet. I strongly believe that Congress should work in a bipartisan fashion to pass a comprehensive economic stimulus package that includes provisions that help needy children and working families meet their basic nutritional needs. It is imperative that Congress work to pass an economic stimulus package that substantially increases funding for food assistance programs and other hunger relief initiatives that target the working poor and unemployed.

Below is a list of local food pantries and soup kitchens in the Indianapolis metro area that offer food assistance to those in need. I encourage everyone to donate food or volunteer at a local food pantry or soup kitchen this holiday season. By doing so, you are helping the less fortunate and serving as an excellent role model for those in the Central Indiana area.

For a comprehensive list of food pantries, soup kitchens and other meal providers, please visit: <http://www.imcpl.org/cgi-bin/irn.pl?F>

St. Vincent de Paul Society
3001 East 30th Street
Indianapolis, IN 46218
(317) 921-1401

Hours of Operation: Tuesday, 9am-2pm; Thursday, 9am-noon and 5pm-7pm; Friday, 9am-noon, Sat. 9am-noon; Every other Monday from 9am-11am for people with physical limitations

Special Instructions: Food assistance available once a week. Client must bring with them ALL of the following: one piece of current mail (preferably business mail) that shows name and address and a picture ID. For household members younger than three a birth certificate is required.

St. John's United Church of Christ
7031 South East Street
Indianapolis, IN 46227
(317) 881-2353

Hours of Operation: First Thursday of the month, 5:30pm-7:30pm

St. Peter & Paul Cathedral
1350 North Pennsylvania Street
Indianapolis, IN 46202
(317) 632-4360

Hours of Operation: Mon.-Fri. 8:45am-10am; Sun. coffee served at 10:30am on Sunday; Sunday dinner noon-12:45pm; 2nd Sat. dinner served at noon

CICOA Aging and In Home Solutions Lunch Sites
Provides noon meals to seniors at 18 sites across Indianapolis. Call (317) 254-3660 for the nearest location.

Scott United Methodist Church
2153 Dr. Andrew J. Brown Avenue
Indianapolis, IN 46202
(317) 925-1997

Hours of Operation: Thursday, 5pm-6:30pm

Greater St. Mark's Baptist Church
5502 East 38th Street
Indianapolis, IN 46218
(317) 545-5673

Hours of Operation: Tuesday, 11am-1pm

Fletcher Place Community Center
1637 Prospect Street
Indianapolis, IN 46203
(317) 636-3466

Hours of Operation: Monday and Wednesday, 3:30pm-4:30pm

National Christian Outreach
2616 Shelby Street
Indianapolis, IN 46203
(317) 784-3786

Hours of Operation: Monday-Friday, 10am-2pm; Saturday, 10am-2pm; Call for Sunday availability.

North United Methodist Church
3808 North Meridian Street
Indianapolis, IN 46208
(317) 924-2612

Hours of Operation: Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday, 11am-noon

One Way Apostolic Church

5840 East 16th Street

Indianapolis, IN 46218

(317) 353-6984

Hours of Operation: Tuesday, 4pm-6pm

Westminster Neighborhood Ministries

445 North State Avenue

Indianapolis, IN 46201

Hours of Operation: Thursday, 10am-11:30am

Thank you for reading the Carson Courier. Please do not hesitate to contact me with your thoughts and concerns or if I can ever be of assistance to you. I value your views and your input helps me to better represent the people of Indiana's Seventh District in Congress.