



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 30, 2008

Contact: Joe and Cindy Loverde  
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## Second Thanksgiving Extravaganza Promises Catering, Music, Gifts for Catonsville's Homeless

How do you follow up a first-time-ever Thanksgiving celebration for 160 homeless men, women and children, including a lavish sit-down dinner by professional caterers, with musical entertainment by local and national performers and holiday gift bags from Santa?

Simple – follow it up the next year with an even larger guest list!

That, at least, is Cindy and Joe Loverde's plan for Thanksgiving 2008.

While the Loverdes had no idea what to expect when they began planning their first Family Community Fund's first "Thanksgiving Feast for the Homeless," they soon found that they had tapped a hidden well of community generosity.

More than 50 local businesses, organizations and individuals donated generous gifts of money, goods and services, and more than 40 volunteers stepped up with boundless energy and enthusiasm.

Respectfully served as they feasted to their hearts' content, the guests danced and sang in the aisles... burst into applause and cheers of thanks for the gifts from Santa...and at the end, one homeless guest vowed that in 2008 he'd be back...as a volunteer!

So this year, the Loverdes plan to up the ante, serving up to 200 guests from the Westside Homeless Shelter, the Mosaic Community Services' residences, the Spring Grove Hospital Center, and the Night of Peace Family Shelter in Woodlawn.

The event, scheduled Thanksgiving Day, 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. at the Rice Auditorium at Spring Grove Hospital Center in Catonsville, will again include a catered dinner, music and dancing, and gifts from Santa.

Building on the first Thanksgiving Dinner's momentum, the Loverdes are seeking contributions from businesses, organizations and individuals who want to give a fabulous celebration to Catonsville's needy while they inspire their own holiday spirit. All donations are tax deductible, whether contributors donate funds or material goods, or pledge volunteer time as greeters or servers.

And the personal rewards go well beyond the tax form: singer Cara Costantini exclaimed that last year's event was "the most worthwhile thing I've ever done!"

For more information, or to donate, please see the website (<http://www.LfcFund.org/>) or call: 410-788-0078.



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## Loverde Family Fund Seeks Support for Thanksgiving Dinner for Catonsville's Homeless

When you're planning to outshine the Ghost of Christmas Present, it's a good idea to start planning early. And when your guest list includes the clients of three local homeless shelters -- the sooner you can gather pledges of donations and volunteer service, the better!

That's the challenge that Joe and Cindy Loverde are facing right now.

While charities around the state raise funds to serve Thanksgiving meals to endless lines of homeless and underprivileged families, the Loverde Family Community Fund is scouting for contributions to support a lavish catered feast with entertainment and holiday gift baskets for the homeless men, women and children of Catonsville.

Last year was their first experience in presenting this no-holds-barred extravaganza, providing an unforgettable holiday celebration of hope, abundance and joy to the families who need it most. And thanks to the generosity of more than 50 contributing businesses, organizations and individuals and more than 40 volunteers, the event was an unqualified success.

More than 160 homeless men, women and children were respectfully served as they feasted to their hearts' content. Afterward, they danced and sang to the live music of national and local artists, and burst into applause and cheers of thanks for the gifts from Santa. At the end, one homeless guest vowed that in 2008 he'd be back...as a volunteer!

So this year, the Loverdes plan to up the ante, serving up to 200 guests from the Westside Homeless Shelter, the Mosaic Community Services' residences, the Spring Grove Hospital Center, and the Night of Peace Family Shelter in Woodlawn. The event is scheduled Thanksgiving Day, 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. at the Rice Auditorium at Spring Grove Hospital Center in Catonsville.

Building on their first Thanksgiving Dinner's momentum, the Loverdes are now seeking funding to support the catering and musical entertainment for the evening. Toiletries for men and women, knit hats, gloves, white socks and children's toys are needed to stuff Santa's gift baskets. And volunteers are needed to staff the dinner as greeters and servers. All donations are tax deductible.

The ultimate rewards, however, go far beyond the tax breaks. As singer Cara Costantini exclaimed after the 2007 event – "This is the most worthwhile thing I've ever done!"

For more information, or to contribute, please see the website (<http://www.LfcFund.org/>) or call: 410-788-0078.