DIVISION OF NATURAL RESOURCES
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Earl Ray Tomblin
Governor

Frank Jezioro
Director

Dear Church Participant:

Once again, the Mountaineer Food Bank, the Huntington Area Food Bank and the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources (DNR) are asking for your help and the help of your church members to support a program that feeds many hungry West Virginians.

Members of the West Virginia Council of Churches and the DNR have united in a cooperative effort to insure needy West Virginia families have access to high quality meat. For many West Virginia food banks, shelters, or needy families this is one of the most difficult foods to obtain. The Hunters Helping the Hungry Program does just that by providing nutritious, low fat, low cholesterol ground venison which can be prepared or used in many ways.

Hunters Helping the Hungry is a unique program involving the Wildlife Resources Section (WRS) of the DNR, hunters and generous donors, and the Mountaineer Food Bank and Huntington Area Food Bank. These two food banks are the only West Virginia certified members of Feeding America, a national network committed to feeding the hungry.

Since its inception in 1992, Hunters Helping the Hungry has provided 769,582 pounds of venison, for over 1,032,000 family-style meals at a total cost of $989,114.09. Processing costs are $1.45 per pound, with the average deer producing 35.5 pounds of ground venison. The food banks are paid around 27 cents per pound to cover pick-up and distribution costs. WRS manages, coordinates and publicizes the Hunters Helping the Hungry Program. However, it is not allowed to spend license fees for food processing and distribution costs.

This is where the West Virginia Council of Churches enters the scene. WRS requires financial assistance to manage a charitable program this large. Past donors to Hunters Helping the Hungry have included hunting and angling organizations, businesses, individuals and churches. However, as the donations of deer grow, so does the need for financial assistance.

When presented with the Hunters Helping the Hungry concept and need for assistance, the members of the West Virginia Council of Churches voted unanimously to support Hunters Helping the Hungry through the establishment of Share the Harvest Sunday. **Sunday, November 6, has been designated as the day in 2011 when each individual member of each**

participating church will be asked to donate one dollar, five dollars, or whatever they can afford to Hunters Helping the Hungry.

Your donation, be it large or small, whether direct or through your church, will help place a balanced, healthy meal before someone less fortunate. You can help us reach our goal of providing every possible pound of meat to needy West Virginians. Donations made to the Hunters Helping the Hungry are tax-deductible. Checks should be made out to: Hunters Helping the Hungry, 324 Fourth Avenue, Room 303, South Charleston, WV 25303-1228.

If you have questions about your donation to Hunters Helping the Hungry or Share the Harvest Sunday, please contact the DNR Program Coordinator, Gene Thorn, at (304) 924-6211, or e-mail at Eugene.r.thorn@wv.gov.

Sincerely,

Frank Jezioro

Frank Jezioro
Director