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Need food? DC Food Finder has the answers

Interactive map connects D.C. residents to healthy food in their community

Washington, D.C. – July 1, 2008 – Looking to apply for food stamps – or use them at a local farmers' market? Seeking low-cost groceries or a free meal? The DC Food Finder has the answers. Created by the Healthy Affordable Food for All Coalition (HAFA) and developed with the generous help of Social Compact, the DC Food Finder (www.dcfoodfinder.org) is the first interactive map of food programs and resources in Washington, DC.

The DC Food Finder is an easy-to-use online tool that aims to connect DC residents with sources of food in their communities from any computer terminal in the city. People simply enter their location, check what services they are seeking, and the DC Food Finder, using the software of Google Maps, will generate the results.

"The Food Finder will make a difference for the many residents that seek nearby food programs and resources," said Alex Ashbrook, director of D.C. Hunger Solutions. "As costs for food, energy and housing continue to rise, many residents are struggling to stretch limited funds and don't know where to find help. The Food Finder will help them find nearby sources of healthy food."

HAFA – which is coordinated by D.C. Hunger Solutions, along with member organizations Bread for the City, Capital Area Food Bank, D.C. Central Kitchen, 7th Street Garden, and SOME, Inc. (So Others Might Eat) – spearheaded the effort to build the DC Food Finder. The Food Finder contains information for farmers' markets, low-cost groceries, places people can apply for food stamps, programs that offer free food or meals, and a variety of other locations that can help people access food.

To learn more, visit the DC Food Finder at www.dcfoodfinder.org.

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The Healthy Affordable Food for All Coalition (HAFA) is a coalition of advocates, service providers and local food activists working to increase access to healthy, affordable food in all D.C. neighborhoods. HAFA is coordinated by D.C. Hunger Solutions. Members include Bread for the City, Capital Area Food Bank, D.C. Central Kitchen, 7th Street Garden, SOME, Inc. (So Others Might Eat), and Summit Health Institute for Research and Education, Inc. (SHIRE).