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Toledo Area Ministries
444 Floyd St.
Toledo OH 43620
419-242-7401
fax 419-242-7404

facsimile transmittal

To: _____ **Fax:** 419-242-7404

From: TOLEDO AREA MINISTRIES **Date:** _____

Re: _____ **Pages:** _____

For Immediate Release

A press conference will be held (**list the date**) to announce the start-up of a new federal grant awarded to the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services in contract with Toledo Area Ministries' Food Stamp Outreach Ministry. This team was one of six agencies nationally to receive the award totaling \$500,000 over a 3 year period and going to the development and increased accessibility of food assistance for senior citizens. Research has shown that only 3 out of every 10 eligible senior citizens ever attain supplemental nutrition assistance (previously known as food stamps), and 10 percent less of the eligible working poor attain assistance when compared to other eligible persons. The Food Stamp Outreach Ministry will work with elderly (age 60+) persons offering an array of services including point of service, outreach education sessions, pre-screening and application assistance, advocacy and follow-up to better reach the under-represented population.

The press conference will be held at (**list the location site and time**), and hopes to have in attendance Emily Sama Martin from Mathematica Policy Research, Marcy Kaptur, the County Commissioners, Deborah Ortiz from the Lucas County Job and Family Services, and Toledo Area Ministries Board Members. An invitation will also be extended to mayor-elect Mike Bell, and the Ohio U.S. Senators. Toledo Area Ministries' Food Stamp Outreach Ministry will be partnering with several sites to accomplish its objectives including Area Office on Aging of N.W.O., Lucas County Job and Family Services, and Cherry Street Mission Ministries. For a full listing see contact information. The objective of this pilot grant is to create a format that can be used nationwide to help our senior citizens and working poor better access the assistance they need.

For more information and a complete listing of community partners contact Project Director, Jim Brenizer, 419-410-7502, jbrenizer@tamohio.org, or TAM Executive Director, Rev. Steve Anthony, 419-242-7401, santhony@tamohio.org .

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