



News from: Department of Human Services

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 19, 2013

COMMUNITY COMES TOGETHER TO SAVE THE ANNUAL OAKLAND HOLIDAY DINNER AND ITS SERVICES TO COMBAT HUNGER AND ALLEVIATE HOMELESSNESS

22nd Annual Holiday Dinner Slated for Monday, December 23, 2013

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Oakland, CA – During this time of holiday cheer, the City of Oakland’s Department of Human Services has much to cheer about. The Golden State Warriors Forward Marreese Speights, the Golden State Warriors, the Oakland Raiders, and Amerigroup Corporation saved the day for the City of Oakland’s Department of Human Services, Communities United Committee, Community Action Partnership and the Emergency Food Providers Committee by donating toward the continuance of their annual city-wide event to feed seniors and those who are homeless and/or low income. The 22nd Annual Thanksgiving Dinner will be held on Monday, December 23, 2013 from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Oakland Marriott City Center, 1001 Broadway, Oakland, CA 94607.

“I heard that they were going to cancel the dinner if there was no assistance with funding and I knew that I had to help. If I did not contribute and then heard it was cancelled, I would have felt responsible,” commented Speights. “The date for the event changed a couple times, so when it was finalized and I found out I was on the road and could not attend, I was disappointed as I would love to be there. The Bay Area and our fans have been so good to me since I’ve been here with the Warriors and I’m glad to have the opportunity to be able to provide these thousands of people the opportunity to attend their annual dinner once again this year.”

At the Annual Holiday Dinner, the free turkey feast will provide a nutritious meal and entertainment to more than 2,000 low-income families, seniors and homeless individuals while providing them the opportunity to obtain a winter coat/jacket if needed. This volunteer-operated event brings out the best in our community and it is supported by donations, large and small, by hundreds of neighborhood volunteers – in a spirit of giving and fellowship. Just \$17 will provide a meal for one guest and \$35 per family.

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“We are grateful to this rallying of community for making this event a reality,” said Susan Shelton, Community Housing Services Manager, “Their sponsorships mean the world to us and allows us to continue our good work.”

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DONATIONS SAVE
THE CITY OF
OAKLAND'S
HOLIDAY DINNER

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In addition to Amerigroup Corporation, Speights, the Golden State Warriors and the Oakland Raiders, major sponsors of the December 23, 2013 Holiday Dinner are the City of Oakland's Department of Human Services' Hunger Program, Alameda-Oakland Community Action Partnership, Communities Untied Committee, the Oakland Marriott City Center, and the many concerned citizens of Oakland and the surrounding Bay Area.

The City's Department of Human Services and its partners invite your participation as a donor. Volunteers will be serving a scrumptious dinner with all the trimmings while our guests enjoy live entertainment and a nutritious meal. Donations are greatly appreciated, as this event is entirely supported by gifts from agencies and individual donors. This event and many other concerted efforts to alleviate hunger in Oakland are in fact reliant upon support from the community. Please consider giving generously of your time and resources to make this annual event a success.

The City of Oakland's Hunger Program also provides brown bags of emergency food to low-income households in the seven Community Development Districts of Oakland. Each bag of groceries contains from 10 to 16 meals and has an average cost of \$12. Food distributions occur at least nine times per year, with the focus of effort and resources coming in the winter months. The program distributes 210,000 pounds of food annually.

The vital backbone to the food distribution network in Oakland is the Emergency Food Providers Advisory Committee. Committee members tirelessly combat hunger year-round, often stretching resources to meet the demand for food among low-income families. A variety of community groups have joined together to serve Oakland's diverse population in need.

To make a donation please call the Department of Human Services' Hunger and Homeless Program at 510-238-7756. Your donations are tax deductible and the tax identification number is 94-6000384. Checks are made payable to the City of Oakland Hunger Program and may be sent to: 150 Frank H. Ogawa Plaza, Ste. 4340, Oakland, CA 94612

Thank you for your contribution to help combat hunger and homelessness in our city.

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About Marreese Speights

Marreese Speights, better known as "Mo", was drafted in 2008 by the Philadelphia 76ers. He has definitely made a name for himself on and off the court, as he holds a 6'10 dominant presence. Speights is currently with the Golden State Warriors and loving everything about the Bay Area and the GSW fanbase. Along with his individual and team goals in his profession of basketball, Speights has a huge agenda to give back in his hometown of Florida and also in Oakland, CA.