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For Immediate Release

**Celebrity Cook Paula Deen and Husband Michael Groover
Bring Smithfield Foods' Helping Hungry Homes™ Tour to D.C.**

WASHINGTON, D.C. (March 4, 2008)—The Capital Area Food Bank today received more than 30,000 pounds of meat to help feed local families, thanks to Smithfield Foods' 10-city Helping Hungry Homes™ Across America tour, a hunger relief initiative led by celebrity cook Paula Deen.

The tour's goal is to provide one million servings of meat to the nation's hungry families, including those in the metropolitan Washington, D.C., area. The poverty rate for school children ages five to 17 in D.C. is 51.3 percent, the highest in the nation, according to the Capital Area Food Bank. That translates into one in every two children in the metropolitan area who are at risk of hunger.

Paula Deen and husband Michael Groover, who regularly appears on her *Food Network* shows, were on hand to help food bank staff and volunteers unload a Smithfield Foods truck carrying more than 30,000 pounds of meat products.

In addition, Deen and Groover delivered dinner, provided by Smithfield Foods, to a local Kids Cafe program that is supported by the Capital Area Food Bank. Kids Cafe is a national program from America's Second Harvest that provides free meals and snacks to low-income children through existing community locations where children congregate.

Deen wanted to learn more about the Kids Cafe program and how Smithfield Foods' donations are used.

“Teaming up with Smithfield Foods to provide much-needed meat to hungry families has opened our eyes to the plight of the working poor in America,” Deen said. “We were shocked to hear the numbers of hungry children in our nation’s capital and feeding the children at one of the Kids Cafe programs has definitely been a highlight of this 10-city tour.”

“Most people are shocked to hear that hunger is a daily reality for so many individuals and families in the metro D.C. area,” said Lynn Brantley, president and CEO of the Capital Area Food Bank. “We are truly grateful for Smithfield Foods’ donation of so much essential protein to help those who need our assistance.”

The Smithfield Foods Helping Hungry Homes tour began in Deen’s hometown, Savannah, Ga., on January 14th and has now reached Philadelphia, New York City, Atlanta, Los Angeles, Kansas City, Chicago, New Orleans and Washington, D.C. The tour will conclude in Detroit. Donations are being distributed in each city through local members of America’s Second Harvest.

Smithfield Foods’ Helping Hungry Homes initiative was established to help ensure that American families in need do not go hungry. Smithfield Foods and its independent operating companies have a long history of stocking food banks, supporting after-school nutrition programs and providing food relief in the wake of natural disasters.

This 10-city tour alone will distribute 250,000 pounds of meat products with an estimated retail value of more than one million dollars.

“Although Smithfield Foods has long been a supporter of hunger relief initiatives, we felt the need to help shine a spotlight on an ever-increasing problem for American families,” said Dennis Treacy, vice president of environmental and corporate affairs for Smithfield Foods. “Providing hunger relief with Paula Deen and her family through our Helping Hungry Homes initiative will remain a high priority throughout our family of companies,” Treacy added.

The Capital Area Food Bank is the largest, public nonprofit hunger and nutrition education resource in the Washington, D.C., Metropolitan Area. Each year the food bank distributes 20 million pounds of food, including 6 million pounds of fresh produce, to

more than 700 partner agencies. The Capital Area Food Bank was founded on Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday, January 15, 1980.

Smithfield Foods is a global food company with operations in 13 countries through wholly owned subsidiaries and joint ventures. Headquartered in Smithfield, Va., the company produces more than 50 brands of pork, beef and turkey products and more than 200 gourmet foods. Employing more than 57,000 people across the globe, Smithfield Foods is the world's largest producer and processor of pork and a leader in turkey processing, cattle feeding and beef processing.

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