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

DETROIT, Mich. (March 20, 2008)—Gleaners Community Food Bank of Southeastern Michigan today received more than 42,000 pounds of meat to help feed Detroit area families, thanks to Smithfield Foods' 10-city Helping Hungry Homes™ Across America tour, an 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 metropolitan Detroit. More than one million people use Michigan's food bank network annually, and 34 percent of them are children under the age of 18.

Michael Groover, husband of Paula Deen and her son Bobby Deen, regulars on Deen's *Food Network* shows, were joined by Chef Jeff Henderson to help Gleaners Community Food Bank employees and volunteers unload a Smithfield Foods truck carrying more than 42,000 pounds of hams, bacon and hot dogs. Henderson is an award-winning chef, bestselling author, and popular public speaker who turned his life around after serving nearly a decade in prison. In 2007 he sold the movie rights to his amazing life story to Columbia Pictures and Will Smith, based on his *New York Times* best-selling memoir.

“Meat is a critical component in offering healthy and balanced food selections to families in the Detroit area that are challenged with food insecurity issues,” said Anne Weekley, director of communications at Gleaners Community Food Bank. “We want to thank Smithfield Foods and Paula Deen for making it possible for thousands of families to sit down to nutritious meals this week.”

The Smithfield Foods Helping Hungry Homes tour began in Deen’s hometown, Savannah, Ga., and has made stops in Philadelphia, New York City, Atlanta, Kansas City, Los Angeles, Chicago, New Orleans, Washington, D.C. and Detroit. Donations were distributed in each city through local members of America’s Second Harvest, the nation’s largest hunger-relief organization.

“Along with our partner Smithfield Foods, our goal has been to get as much food to as many families as possible with the help of outstanding local organizations such as Gleaners Community Food Bank,” Groover said. “When Paula and I learned about the escalating problem of working families facing hunger in this country, we realized that we had to do something.”

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 has distributed 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 through our Helping Hungry Homes initiative will remain a high priority throughout our family of companies,” Treacy added.

As the third-oldest food bank in the U.S., Gleaners Community Food Bank’s mission has been to turn surplus food, which otherwise would go to waste, into millions of meals for hungry people in southeastern Michigan. For more than a quarter of a century Gleaners has been nourishing communities by feeding hungry people. Since

1977, Gleaners Community Food Bank has grown from distributing just one to two million pounds of food a year to nearly 25 million pounds annually, equivalent to 65,000 meals per day.

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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