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NEW GROCERY MARKET DEBUT HIGHLIGHTS 8TH ANNUAL “DAY WITHOUT HUNGER”

NAPERVILLE, Ill., April 30, 2015 – Since securing offsite storage space in January, Loaves & Fishes Community Services has undergone rapid changes in its grocery market and warehouse area, transforming often congested aisles into a more accessible and open floor plan. The organization will debut these changes to the public on Friday, June 12th at the 8th Annual “Day Without Hunger” celebration.

“The tireless efforts of our volunteers and operations staff have been inspiring,” said Megan K. Selck, recently appointed President & CEO. “They have managed to create a more dignified experience for our low-income clients while also promoting healthier food choices that are necessary for a well-balanced meal. Our clients have been pleasantly surprised with the changes so far, and we are excited to share the new, finished layout with our community that made this transformation possible.”

In 2011, Loaves & Fishes moved into a 17,000 square foot facility that allowed for a more spacious grocery market. This space included two walk-in coolers and a walk-in freezer, which provided clients with more fresh produce, meat and dairy products. Since that time, Loaves & Fishes’ client population has surged over 80% due to the increased need in the western suburbs of Chicago, which has motivated organizational leaders to reimagine the original floor plan that was visited by over 20,000 individuals last year. The new setup will include additional refrigeration and freezer space, produce stands and other features that boost fresh meal options. Loaves & Fishes’ goal is to offer healthy food that will impact its clients’ diets and decrease the risk of health problems.

At the “Day Without Hunger” event on June 12th, Loaves & Fishes will celebrate the individuals, businesses and organizations that made these changes possible during an opening ceremony at 11 am. Following the kick-off, Loaves & Fishes will open its doors to showcase the grocery market and warehouse transformation. This free community festival, presented by BMO Harris Bank, also includes a BBQ, local restaurant tastings, live entertainment, raffle prizes, exhibits, and other family-friendly activities.

“This year at Day Without Hunger, we are ‘Celebrating Community’ and the positive strides we’ve made together to reduce hunger,” said Michelle Iskowitz, Loaves & Fishes’ volunteer and Day Without Hunger chair. “This event is unique because it brings together people from all walks of life for an action-packed day full of incredible food, music and games. Best of all, because of our generous financial and in-kind sponsors, the event is free for the public!”

Loaves & Fishes Community Services is an anti-poverty and hunger relief organization nationally recognized for its best-in-class food recovery and client empowerment programs. Together with a team of dedicated community partners and more than 1,500 local volunteers, Loaves & Fishes provides groceries and essential supportive services to more than 2,800 suburban Chicago families each month. Learn more about getting help, making a donation, or volunteering at <http://www.loaves-fishes.org>.

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