



Worcester Regional
Transit Authority

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
December 6, 2007

WORCESTER, MA. _ 'Tis the season to be jolly, however, for many people, the holiday season finds them struggling to make ends meet. For many, finding adequate food during this time becomes a difficult battle.

Attempting to help address this urgent need, the Worcester Regional Transit Authority (WRTA) and Local 22 of the Amalgamated Transit Union are co-sponsoring "Fill Up the Bus," a food drive to benefit the Worcester County Food Bank (WCFB), on Monday, December 10 through Wednesday, December 12.

"We are asking the public to help us fill up a 20-passenger van, that will be located at Worcester City Hall Plaza from 6 a.m.- 6p.m. for all three days," said General Manager John Carney, of RTA Transit Services, Inc.

The WCFB is the "clearing house" for all donated food in the region. The donated food that is collected will be inspected and distributed to those in need, throughout a network of 200 partner agencies, in 60 cities and towns in Central Massachusetts by the WCFB.

Every WRTA vehicle in operation from buses and vans to Para-transit vehicles will have bags onboard, in which passengers can drop off food. Donations will also be accepted at the Customer Service Office located on 317 Main Street, Worcester. Employees of the WRTA and Local 22 can bring donations to the WRTA Main Office at 287 Grove Street, Worcester.

"We're working together to get something done for people who are in need during the holidays," said Local Union 22 Agent Christopher Bruce. "We're very happy everyone has stepped up to get this done."

According to Donna Novelli of RTA Transit Service Inc., approximately 20 to 30 volunteers will be manning the van throughout the three-day event.

“Everyone is excited about this food drive. “Fill Up the Bus” brings everyone from our riders, employees and union members together for a terrific cause of helping others,” Carney added.

Recommended food donations include:

- *Soup, stew and chili
- *Dry and canned pasta
- *Macaroni & Cheese
- *Cereal, rice and beans
- *Canned fruits and vegetables
- *Canned tuna and chicken
- *Peanut Butter and Jelly

Please note: The WCFB will NOT accept any glass item or baby food.

According to Jean McMurray, executive director of the Worcester County Food Bank, “The Food Bank and its community of partner agencies, donors, and volunteers work year-round to provide food and hope our neighbors in need. We are grateful to the WRTA for their support during this season of giving.”

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