



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**HOSEA FEED THE HUNGRY FINDS NEW HOME FOR 11TH ANNUAL
MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. HOLIDAY DINNER**

Georgia International Convention Center & Airport Area Chamber of Commerce Host Event

Atlanta, Jan. 16 – In observance of the Martin Luther King, Jr. National Holiday, hundreds of corporate partners, volunteers and guests will take a “Day On, Not A Day Off” when they convene at the Georgia International Convention Center on Monday, January 16 for the 11th Annual Hosea Feed the Hungry Holiday Dinner. The theme, “A Day On, Not a Day Off” was adopted to encourage citizens around the country to engage in public service and outreach in honor of Dr. King. Dinner and other services including haircuts, salon treatments, legal support, phone services, clothing and ministry will begin at 10:00am.

For the first time in the history of the Hosea Feed the Hungry dinner series, the feast will not be held in downtown Atlanta but moves to The Georgia International Convention Center located in College Park. The facility is being sponsored by the Airport Area Chamber of Commerce, a group of private and public businesses and organizations located in the South Fulton County corridor.

Both organizations say they are eager to help Hosea Feed the Hungry because of the organization’s mission and the current tough economic climate.

“The GICC is honored to be the host facility for this year’s Hosea Feed the Hungry dinner. We know there are many people in our community that have fallen on hard times, and we want to do our part to help”, said Mercedes Miller, Interim Executive Director, Georgia International Convention Center.

-more-

Page 2 Hosea Feed the Hungry MLK, Jr. Dinner

Airport Area Chamber of Commerce President Ann Ray says it was an easy decision to lend a helping hand because so many people are struggling.

“Although the economy is beginning to show some signs of recovery, it still has a quite a way to go to make an impact on businesses and in individuals lives. There are many people and businesses that are struggling to hang on and survive. The needs are greater today to just try to put food on the table for many. One of the focuses of the AACOC is on systems supporting the community. The Chamber's Board and Businesses are comprised of individuals that have a passion and compassion for helping others. The AACOC Board is honored to support such a worthy cause as Hosea Feed the Hungry. We recognize that life often takes twists and turns that are beyond people's control. Hunger is a terrible hardship to endure, and we don't think there is any cause that has a more direct impact on people's lives than Hosea Feed the Hungry.”

Hosea Feed the Hungry organization had been in search for a location to host the MLK,Jr. Holiday Dinner for months when the Airport Area Chamber stepped-in to support and fund the Georgia International Convention Center facility. Afemo Omilami, chief operating officer, Hosea Feed the Hungry expressed his gratitude for the Airport group's support.

“On behalf of Elizabeth Omilami, the staff, board of directors and volunteers of the Hosea Feed the Hungry organization, we are grateful to the City of College Park, the Airport Area Chamber of Commerce and the Georgia International Convention Center for hosting the 11th Annual Hosea Feed the Hungry Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday dinner”, said Omilami. He continued, “Less than one week ago, we were unsure where the dinner would be held, so we are thankful for a group of committed citizens and loyal supporters from the South Fulton/Airport area who have agreed to fully fund the use of the beautiful Georgia International Convention Center located in Historic College Park for this year's dinner. We invite all of our friends and neighbors from College Park, East Point, Hapeville, Riverdale and the surrounding cities to come out and join us.”

Several transportation companies including George Motor Coach, MTI Limousine and Harmon Brothers will transport guests to and from the facility. Marta will provide BREEZE cards for those guests desiring to travel by train.

Several pick-up locations have been identified for passenger pick-up which includes; Peachtree and Pine Street Shelter, Gateway 24/7; City of Refuge and Jefferson Street Shelter as well as Hosea Feed the Hungry offices located on Donnelly Drive in Southwest Atlanta.

-more-

Page 3 Hosea Feed the Hungry MLK, Jr. Dinner

About Hosea Feed the Hungry

What began as a Thanksgiving meal, created by founder Rev. Hosea L. Williams, to show respect to Atlanta's homeless population in 1971 has grown to become, Hosea Feed the Hungry, one of the city's vital resources that provide daily food and assistance to thousands of citizens who make up much of the South's Working Poor and Homeless.

Last year, Hosea Feed the Hungry's on-going programming provided, among other things, over 3,000 individuals with food and assistance, prevented homelessness through rent and utility assistance for nearly 300 families and delivered more than 25,000 meals to senior citizens and homebound families. Hosea Feed the Hungry makes weekly visits to the streets of Atlanta to deliver food and assistance to individuals who are chronically homeless. Hosea Feed the hungry also serves over 4,700 meals as part of Sunday church services and each year presents four major holiday food service events, which feed and assist, in total, over 40,000 people. For more information on Hosea Feed the Hungry, call 404/755-3353 or visit www.HoseaFeedTheHungry.com.

About the GICC

The GICC is Georgia's newest, second largest convention center. Located adjacent to Atlanta's Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport, and only 10 minutes from downtown Atlanta, the GICC features 150,000 square feet of exhibit space, Georgia's largest ballroom, and one of Georgia's premier culinary centers. Additionally, the GICC campus features two brand new convention hotels, a 403-room Marriott headquarters hotel slated to open August 2010, and a 147-room SpringHill Suites hotel that opened in December 2009. For more information, please visit www.gicc.com

About the Airport Area Chamber of Commerce

The Airport Area Chamber of Commerce is a nonprofit organization dedicated to improving the business climate and making our community the best place to live, work and play. Founded over 50 years ago, the AACOC is dedicated to the promotion, development, and growth of business and professional activities within the airport area. The ultimate task of the Chamber is to support community undertakings through advertising and encouraging growth in the surrounding area. The AACOC seeks to promote the airport area as a desirable place to live, work and prosper. We work to bring new businesses into our rapidly growing area; and we strive to ensure our existing businesses thrive. If you want to be a part of a beneficial business-to-business networking and invest in the development of our community; you want to become a member of the Airport Area Chamber of Commerce. The role of the Airport Area of Commerce is to be a central hub for indentifying and marshalling resources, addressing public policy, and disseminating information. Strategically, the AACOC provides a multi-level approach to achieving its platform of diverse programs: some programs focus on the individual; some focus on the commercial enterprise, some focus on the integrated network; and others focus the systems supporting the community.

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Airport Area Chamber of Commerce key member businesses:

Jacoby Development	Martino-White Printing
Regions Bank Hapeville	BB&T Riverdale Main
City of College Park	Choice Care Occupational Medicine
City of Hapeville	ICS Contract Services
Atlantic Southeast Airlines	Renaissance Concourse Atlanta Airport Hotel
Air Tran Airways	D. Clark Harris, Inc.
TBI Airport Management	Chick-fil-a The Hapeville Dwarf House
Georgia International Convention Center	Department of Aviation/HJAIA
Hartsfield-Jackson Development Program	Continental Realty/Cawthon-Hollums
Concessions International	Select Hospitality Services, LLC
Wings Financial Credit Union	Michon's
New South Construction	

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