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News Release

For Immediate Release

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Food council needs community feedback and donations from gardeners

OTTAWA COUNTY – The Ottawa County Food Policy Council (OCFPC) is collecting community feedback to help develop its strategic plan by identifying needs in Ottawa County. Residents may participate by taking an online survey at www.OttawaFood.org between April 22 and May 15, 2015. Survey participants may enter to win a \$50 Meijer gift card (one entry per person) after completing the survey.

“The food council has successfully helped develop a local food depot, worked with food pantries and farmers markets to improve access to healthy food, promoted summer meal programs, created a food resource website (www.OttawaFood.org) and much more,” said Lisa Uganski, RD Dietitian / Health Educator at Ottawa County Department of Public Health.



Gardeners needed: Plant a Row for the Hungry, coordinated locally by the OCFPC, is a program for gardeners to donate a designated row of their garden to food banks and soup kitchens. Gardeners grow produce as they have in the past; and when they harvest, at various points in the growing season, they bag up the designated produce and bring it to a local food resource center. Pledge to Plant a Row for the Hungry and find participating locations at www.OttawaFood.org/plant-a-row or call (616) 393-5799.

“According to the Feeding America Ottawa County Hunger Study, 60% of pantries said fresh fruits and vegetables are too expensive to purchase. The Plant a Row program is a way for pantries to get fresh, locally-grown produce at NO cost” said Amy Sheele, Health Educator at Ottawa County Department of Public Health.



Community survey links:

English www.surveymonkey.com/s/6VCMTQZ

Encuesta del Consejo de Políticas sobre Alimentos del Condado de Ottawa 2015

www.surveymonkey.com/s/33XSQPH

Suggested Tweets

- Community members @miOttawa: @miOCDPH needs your feedback to plan food initiatives. www.OttawaFood.org
- Gardeners - Give fresh fruits and vegetables to your community @miOCDPH www.OttawaFood.org

Attachment

Plant a Row for the Hungry flyer for distribution.

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