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March 4, 2008 **For Immediate Release**

EMERGENCY FOOD AND SHELTER NATIONAL BOARD PROGRAM AWARDS MORE THAN $99,000 TO AID LOCAL RESIDENTS

NEWARK –Licking County has been awarded $99,103 in federal funds under the Emergency Food and Shelter Program (EFSP) National Board to supplement emergency food and shelter programs in the county.

The Licking County EFSP Board will determine how the funds are to be distributed among the emergency food and shelter programs run by local service agencies. Programs given priority status will be those that offer emergency shelter; rent/mortgage and utility assistance; or food assistance to those in need in Licking County.

Award recipients must be private non-profit or units of government, have an accounting system, practice nondiscrimination, have demonstrated capability to deliver emergency food and/or shelter programs, and if they are a private voluntary organization, they must have a voluntary board. Qualifying agencies are urged to apply for these funds.

Licking County EFSP funds were distributed last year through the Food Pantry Network, LEADS, Salvation Army and the Woodlands New Beginnings Shelter. These agencies were responsible for providing 2,183 nights of shelter; 634,065 meals; rent/mortgage assistance to 86 households and utility assistance to 105 households.

Contact local EFSP Board Chair, Sylvia Friel, at the Licking County United Way at 740-345-6685 for an application. The deadline for applications to be received is March 21, 2008.

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