



Gaithersburg-Germantown Chamber of Commerce, Inc.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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GGCC & Rio Sport & Health Supports Manna Food Center

The Gaithersburg-Germantown Chamber of Commerce (GGCC) is active in providing business-to-business networking opportunities throughout the year, a collective voice in local, regional, and state legislative affairs, professional development opportunities, and other services that enhance the business environment.

Our last networking opportunity of 2009 is a Food Drive to support Manna Food Center in conjunction with our Business Networking After Five at Rio Sport & Health on Tuesday, December 15th.

Manna Food Center provides food for more than 3,300 families each month at eighteen food distribution sites throughout Montgomery County.

Throughout the year, the GGCC participates in several community service projects including the City of Gaithersburg Hat & Mitten Drive and the Montgomery County Back to School Collection. The GGCC has had a long tradition of involvement in community activities, and our commitment to community service has been a part of our strategic plan from the very beginning. Additionally, the GGCC advocates and advertises their member's community service programs in their weekly email blasts.

"At the Gaithersburg-Germantown Chamber, we understand the importance of giving back to our community. In these tough economic times we understand that there is a greater need in our community and we feel fortunate to have the resources to help. Our Manna Food Center Drive is a good example where everybody wins. Our members get to attend a great networking event and families in need get some relief. We are honored to help," stated GGCC President/CEO Marilyn Balcombe.

The GGCC felt it was important to support fellow GGCC Member Manna Food Center with their endeavors. Manna provides food to 37 area emergency shelters, group homes, food pantries, and soup kitchens at no charge and feeds about 3,000 hungry families in Montgomery County each month. Half of the people they serve are children. The numbers alone were enough for the GGCC's interest to be sparked and want to help. And Rio Sport & Health, the host the December Business Networking After Five, is also delighted to support the cause.

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In the week leading up to Thanksgiving, Manna Food Center had 1,600 referrals for families in need of food assistance. "I remember a time - only a few years ago -- when we would have 1,600 referrals spread over an entire month. From my vantage point, the tough economy shows no signs of recovery. So many of our neighbors struggle daily to feed their families, but with your generous contributions of both food and funds, we can provide essential food to all who need it. From all of us at Manna, thank you for your support," said Amy Ginsburg, Manna Food Center Executive Director.

For more information on the GGCC visit www.ggchamber.org.

For more information on Manna Food Center visit www.mannafood.org.

For more information on Sport & Health visit www.sportandhealth.com.

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