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Lighthouse Collects Canned and Boxed Food Items at Renaissance Festival

Donors can receive discount tickets to the Festival for the fifth straight year

Pontiac, Mich. — One of the most revered late summer traditions in southeastern Michigan is the sword fighting Medieval dress-up opportunities and general revelry experienced at the Renaissance Festival. Now for the fifth consecutive year, Festival enthusiasts can receive reduced tickets in exchange for helping to feed their neighbors in need through Lighthouse of Oakland County

Lighthouse will once again serve as an official charity of the annual Festival starting this month in Holly. On the weekends of August 20-21 August 27-28 and September 3-5, Lighthouse will be collecting nonperishable canned and boxed goods for its food pantry at the Festival. Any family or individual bringing at least four canned and boxed goods can buy one ticket and get one ticket free to the Festival.

Since 2007 Lighthouse has collected tens of thousands of pounds non-perishable items from guests to feed more than 1600 individuals per month in the Pontiac and Clarkston Offices.

"The Renaissance Festival and its guests have been incredible supporters of our Emergency Services division and it's amazing how far some goods can go for families in need trying to get back on their feet," said Lighthouse President and CEO John Ziraldo. "It benefits everyone and we hope this discount opportunity will help to introduce more people to all the Festival has to offer for guests of all ages."

Lighthouse Emergency Services, which runs the effort, also is in need of volunteers to work two and a half to three hour shifts on August 21 and 28 and September 3 to help manage this effort. All volunteers receive a free ticket and \$4 food vouchers.

Volunteers can not only enjoy being outside but they can also receive a free entry ticket and food vouchers to the Festival. Please contact Tricia Pulis at Lighthouse for more information on serving as a volunteer at 248-920-6000.

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Lighthouse of Oakland County, Inc. (LOC) has been providing services to low-income families in the area since 1972. It is a family of agencies providing a full range of services designed to move people from crisis and instability to self-sufficiency.

Lighthouse last year provided assistance to families and individuals in need on 70,000 separate occasions through three key subsidiaries: Lighthouse Community Development (LCD), which rejuvenates communities through affordable housing and educating homeowners; Lighthouse Emergency Services (LES), which provides emergency food, housing, medical, utility and other services to people who need immediate help; and Lighthouse PATH, which provides long-term housing and support to help women with children achieve self-sufficiency and a healthy family environment.

