



For Immediate Release

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NBA Referees Team Up With Bread For The City

Washington, D.C. - December 13, 2006 – NBA Referees came out to Northwest Washington, D.C. on Wednesday to help put – and keep – food on the tables of local low-income residents.

Monty McCutchen, Michael Smith, and Gary Zielinski, in town to work a Washington Wizards game this evening, spent the morning at Bread for the City’s food pantry, packing grocery bags full of cereal, canned peas, rice and other nutritious non-perishable items for people in need. Year-round, volunteers and employees there assemble a three-day-supply of provisions that are picked up by clients on-site or delivered to those who are house-bound.

"Bread for the City feeds almost 5,000 households every month," said George Jones, Executive Director of the organization. "We rely heavily on the generosity of individuals, community groups, businesses and foundations like the National Basketball Referees Foundation (NBRF), to volunteer and make donations. Monty, Michael, and Gary worked hard to help out in our food pantry, and we are grateful for their support."

McCutchen, Smith and Zielinski volunteered at the pantry on behalf of the NBRF, the NBA referees’ year-old philanthropic organization. NBRF members volunteer at a variety of institutions, and host referee educational clinics. As an entity, the foundation serves as a grantmaking institution, and holds an annual conference devoted to basketball officiating and philanthropy. Its focus is on sustainable efforts.

“Certainly we came out to Bread for the City today to help folks feed their families this week,” said Lamell McMorris, spokesman for the National Basketball Referees Association, and NBRF Executive Director. “But what about next week? We wanted to support an organization that works not just to satisfy hunger today, but to equip people in need with the kind of job training, healthcare, and legal assistance they need to get out of poverty.”

The referees will continue to partner with Bread for the City in the new year, as well as with organizations that work to strengthen communities throughout the nation.

About the NBRF

The NBRF is a registered 501(c)(3) organization established by the NBA referees to support and enhance their charitable, educational and community activities.

About Bread for the City

Bread for the City is a private, non-profit organization that provides free services including food, clothing, medical care, legal assistance and social services for over 10,000 low-income D.C. residents each month.

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