

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: NOVEMBER 6, 2008**

Contact Information:

Attention:

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**HUNTERDON COUNTY STINGRAYS CHALLENGE COMMUNITY TO HELP THOSE IN NEED**

On Sunday, November 16<sup>th</sup>, the Hunterdon County Stingrays competitive swim team hosts the Autumn Challenge Invitational swim meet at Raritan Valley Community College. 500 kids from eight different teams are expected to compete in swimming events in the six-lane pool at RVCC. The swimmers, who range in age from five to 19, will contest in 46 different events beginning at 8:00 Sunday morning.

But the Stingrays will be doing more than swimming on the 16<sup>th</sup>; they are also running a food drive to help local food banks stock their shelves during this difficult economic time. The team is appealing to the community for donations as well.

“We’re asking local residents to help the swim team supply food pantries in Hunterdon County for the Thanksgiving holiday,” said HCY Head Coach Barbara Huey. “People can drop off their non-perishable donations at the Deer Path YMCA or they can bring them to the Autumn Challenge meet at RVCC and enjoy the swimming competition.”

Items especially needed at this time of year include:

- Stuffing mix
- Canned gravy
- Canned vegetables
- Canned soups
- Cereals
- Canned yams/sweet potatoes
- Canned cranberry sauce
- Canned fruits
- Peanut butter
- Pasta

“Money is tight this year for everyone, but we can effect a positive change in the community by donating food items to people who are less fortunate,” said Huey, who emphasizes character-development as part of the team’s regular training. “Promoting kind and compassionate behavior to others is a huge part of building healthy children and strong communities, and Thanksgiving is an ideal time to provide an example of generosity.”

Donations are being collected in the front lobby of the Deer Path YMCA from November 10<sup>th</sup> through the 15<sup>th</sup>, and during the Autumn Challenge Invitational swim meet at the Raritan Valley Community College pool on November 16<sup>th</sup> from 8:00 AM until 5:00 PM.

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