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**Harvest of Hope 2008 Welcomes Award Winning
Country Music Artist Suzy Bogguss**

Annual Food Bank fundraiser to benefit Kid's Café programs

CORPUS CHRISTI, TX- The Food Bank of Corpus Christi announced today its featured performer for Harvest of Hope 2008 will be country music artist Suzy Bogguss. The annual fundraising dinner and concert will be held on June 20, 2008 at the Solomon Ortiz Center. Honorary Chairs for Harvest of Hope 2008 will be Flavius and Kathy Killebrew. Proceeds from Harvest of Hope ticket sales and table sponsorships will be used to support and expand Kid's Café and Backpack programs.

A check was presented to the Food Bank of Corpus Christi from Stripes, Inc in the amount of \$10,000 in support of the Kids Café and Backpack programs. This generous donation underscores Stripes Inc.'s continued commitment to the community and to the cause of ending hunger in the Coastal Bend.

Kid's Café is an after school program that provides a hot meal in addition to homework assistance, tutoring, nutrition education classes, and recreational activities for hundreds of children each week in five locations throughout the city. Kid's Café programs provide the only hot meal many children in the program may receive that day. In addition, the Backpack Program supplements the Kids Café meals with "back packs" containing nutritious snacks that participating children take home for the weekend. Foods are healthy and child friendly, with all snacks requiring no cooking or preparation.

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“It is only through partnerships such as these that we can make progress in our battle against hunger,” said Food Bank of Corpus Christi executive director Bea Hanson, “and we are thankful to Stripes Inc. for recognizing the need for such programs and coming forward to help make a difference in the lives of children throughout the Coastal Bend.”

Tickets for Harvest of Hope 2008 are available at the Food Bank of Corpus Christi and sponsorship opportunities are still available. Tickets may be purchased at the Food Bank of Corpus Christi or online at www.FoodBankofCorpusChristi.org.

Since 1982, the Food Bank has been fighting hunger in the Coastal Bend by providing food and personal care products to various charity and service agencies in an 11-county area, including: Aransas, Bee, Brooks, Duval, Jim Wells, Kenedy, Kleberg, Live Oak, McMullen, Nueces and San Patricio. In 2007, the Food Bank of Corpus Christi distributed over 4.6 million pounds of food.

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