



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Orioles to serve up food and fun at Baltimore's Franciscan Center!

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On Tuesday, June 17 from 6:00 to 10:00 pm, **the Orioles organization** will host a "**Game Night**" for Baltimore's most vulnerable citizens at the **Franciscan Center**, located at 101 W.23rd Street in Baltimore. **Angela Showalter**, wife of Orioles' manager Buck Showalter, as well as other members of the Orioles organization, will serve a ballpark-style dinner to poor and hungry men, women and children in our Community – along with some game-night fun!

After dinner, our Guests will watch the Baltimore Orioles battle the Tampa Bay Rays in St. Petersburg, Florida during a live broadcast of the game in the Franciscan Center's dining room. The Oriole Bird will be on hand to keep the crowd cheering, and giveaways and prizes will be offered throughout the evening.

Founded in 1968, the Franciscan Center is one of the oldest human services agencies in Baltimore. What began with the Sisters handing out sandwiches at the back door of the orphanage they operated in the Charles Village neighborhood has grown to serve tens of thousands of our neighbors in need from every Baltimore zip code, providing food, clothing and a range of emergency financial assistance and supportive outreach that is unique in the City. Our programs are designed to help families and individuals in crisis stabilize their lives and move toward self-sufficiency.

The Franciscan Center serves hot, nutritious meals to as many as 600 men, women and children daily, five days a week throughout the year. We also offer an evening meal, our "Community Dinner" every Wednesday evening. The Franciscan Center is committed to food justice, and we offer a number of healthy food initiatives designed to introduce fresh, healthy food to the people whom we serve. Our dining program is the first (and only) program of its kind in the country to participate in the national "Meatless Monday" initiative, and we offer fresh vegetables in all of our meals. The Franciscan Center is on pace to serve more than 110,000 meals this year, prepared on-site using fresh ingredients. Our emergency food pantry provided nearly 6,000 bags of groceries to families and individuals in crisis throughout 2013, and we expect to provide more than 8,000 bags this year.

In addition to our food programs, the Franciscan Center offers a broad range of emergency assistance and supportive services designed to help our clients become self-sufficient, including financial assistance with energy bills, eviction prevention, medical prescriptions and transportation as well as help securing birth certificates and Maryland State identification cards, which is one of the greatest barriers keeping people homeless. In addition, our Technical Resource Center helps our clients gain basic computer skills, build resumes and apply for jobs and benefits.

For more information about Orioles Game Night or the Franciscan Center, please contact Meg Ducey at (410) 467-5340, Ext. 117 (office) or 410-852-4540 (cell), or email her at mducey@fcbmore.org

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