

HARBOR SPRINGS AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: Monday, February 16, 2009
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HARBOR SPRINGS AREA CHILI COOK-OFF BOASTS SIGNIFICANT INCREASE IN ATTENDANCE WHILE HELPING LOCAL FOOD BANK

The Harbor Springs Area Chili Cook-Off, held Sunday at Stafford's Pier Restaurant in Harbor Springs boasted a 50% increase in attendance over the 2008 event. 150 guests attended the function, which is an annual Harbor Springs Area Chamber of Commerce (HSACC) event. Approximately 100 guests were in attendance the year before.

This year, the HSACC partnered with The Manna Food Project by promoting a food-drive in conjunction with the chili cook-off. Guests in attendance donated a total of \$70 in cash as well as 245 pounds of food, personal items and pet supplies. With one pound of food equaling one meal served, the total in donations gathered at Sunday's event will provide over 1,000 meals to those needing assistance in our area. The Manna Food Project is a food warehouse and pantry located in Harbor Springs, providing services throughout Emmet, Antrim, and Charlevoix Counties. For additional information on how you can support The Manna Food Project, please visit their website at www.mannafoodproject.org.

The number of participants in this year's chili cook-off was also up from 2008, with 16 entries total. A winner from both the professional and amateur categories was awarded a \$100 cash prize. Winning the professional category was Rob Sargent with Odawa Casino Resort for his Posole, which is a hominy-style chili. Winning in the amateur category was Chris Baughman with his venison chili.

The HSACC would like to thank everyone who attended and who contributed to the success of the 2009 chili cook-off. A special thank you to BOYNE for their donation of bottled water served at the event.

The next Chamber event will be a joint Business After Hours between the HSACC and the Petoskey Regional Chamber of Commerce. The joint Business After Hours will be held at Nubs Nob on Thursday, March 12, 5:00-7:00 pm. This event is open to the public and everyone is encouraged to attend.

For additional information on membership to the Harbor Springs Area Chamber of Commerce, please visit www.harborspringschamber.com.

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