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**ERB FAMILY FOUNDATION AND FRED AND BARBARA ERB MATCH GIFTS TO DONATE
\$1 MILLION TO SALVATION ARMY, FORGOTTEN HARVEST AND THAW**

BIRMINGHAM, MI — December 22, 2008...In response to an unprecedented need for local food, shelter and utility assistance, the recently established Fred A. and Barbara M. Erb Family Foundation and its founders, Fred and Barbara Erb, announced today matching gifts totaling \$1 Million. Erb Family Foundation President John Erb made the announcement. “We are temporarily deviating from our Foundation’s core mission of advancing sustainability through promoting environmentally healthy and culturally vibrant communities with this emergency gift,” said John Erb. “These dollars are critical and will be deployed immediately to our local community to provide food, shelter and utility assistance to those most in need.”

A \$500,000 joint gift to the Salvation Army Eastern Michigan Division will provide a tremendous impact on the agency’s operations. Prior to this gift, the Division’s year-end fundraising campaign was down by more than \$600,000, 17% less than at the same time last year, while the need for services is up by 20%. Included in the Salvation Army’s broad range of services are helping people qualify for THAW assistance and providing more than 9,000 meals per day through its soup kitchens, shelters and Bed and Bread Truck.

A \$250,000 joint gift to Forgotten Harvest will enable them to provide an additional one million pounds of fruits, vegetables and meat products to the Salvation Army and other organizations to feed those in need. Forgotten Harvest currently rescues 9.5 million pound of perishable and prepared food annually from 400 grocery and other fresh food donors and delivers it to more than 150 soup kitchens and food pantries in metro Detroit.

The second \$250,000 joint gift will be passed directly through The Heat and Warmth Fund (THAW) to approximately 500 low-income families in metro Detroit to help them pay their heat and electricity bills when matched dollar-for-dollar through THAW’s partner, DTE Energy, resulting in a total of \$500,000 in direct assistance.

The Erb Family Foundation’s assets currently total nearly \$100 million, with another \$100 - \$150 million to be funded in the future, placing it on the top 20 list of the largest private foundations in Michigan.

Foundation board members include Fred A. and Barbara M. Erb and three of their children, Wendy Elaine Erb, Leslie Erb Liedtke and John M. Erb. Chaired by long-time family friend and attorney, Ira J. Jaffe, the board also includes two other non-family members, Robert C. Larson and Susan E. Cooper.

When Fred Erb sold Erb Lumber Company in 1993, it was a multi-state enterprise covering 45 locations with 1,300 employees and \$280 million in sales.