



## NEWS RELEASE

### **DC Central Kitchen Announces \$1 Million Contribution From CoBank In Support Of Local Food Programs**

**WASHINGTON, D.C. (October 4, 2012)** — DC Central Kitchen announced today that it has received a \$1 million commitment from CoBank, a member of the Farm Credit System and a leading provider of credit to the U.S. rural economy.

The four-year CoBank grant will increase DCCK's capacity to transport, prepare, store and distribute locally grown foods in its various nutrition and hunger-relief programs at Washington-area schools, homeless shelters, rehabilitation clinics and neighborhood corner stores. The money will be used to fund food washing, dehydration and cold-storage equipment and facilities, as well as transportation and other expenses.

The contribution follows \$179,000 grant from CoBank in 2011 to purchase a refrigeration truck and delivery van, both of which are used to move produce grown by family farmers in Virginia's Shenandoah Valley to DCCK food distribution hubs across the city.

"We are deeply grateful for this contribution and our ongoing strong partnership with CoBank," said DCCK Chief Executive Officer Mike Curtin. "Local food products are an increasingly important part of our overall program, providing higher nutritional value for our clients as well as a reliable, nearby market for area farmers. Thanks to CoBank's generosity, we will be able to significantly expand our use of local foods to help our clients in the years ahead."

"DC Central Kitchen's unique and creative business model is able to connect food supplied by local farmers in rural areas with demand in the inner city," said Robert B. Engel, president and chief executive officer of CoBank. "As a mission-based lender, we're delighted to be making an investment that will bring the benefit of local foods to even more of the thousands of people that DCCK serves each year."

DC Central Kitchen uses purchased and donated food to prepare and deliver approximately 5,000 meals each day to schools and partner agencies throughout the Washington metro area. DCCK also offers culinary job training for unemployed, homeless and other underprivileged adults in order to provide them with a path to a career in the food service industry.

DCCK sources much of its fresh produce from a farmer-owned auction barn in Dayton, Virginia, in the heart of the Shenandoah Valley. A wide variety of food products is available for purchase at the barn, including tomatoes, peppers, corn, onions, squash and potatoes. The produce is transported back to the agency's food preparation facility in Washington and included in the meals DCCK prepares each day.

“We are focused on increasing the nutritional value of our meals in addition to overall volume,” Curtin said. “Local produce helps us to significantly enhance the quality of our product, and we’re grateful for the help that CoBank is providing us to achieve that goal.”

### **About DC Central Kitchen**

For more than two decades, DC Central Kitchen has used food as a tool to change lives. Each day, the Kitchen serves up 10,000 balanced meals packed with fresh, local produce. Half of these meals are delivered to area homeless shelters, after-school programs, and other nonprofit organizations serving low-income DC residents. The other half are prepared in DC public and private schools, making us the only nonprofit in America conducting a full-service healthy school meal program. We also offer an acclaimed Culinary Job Training program that provides hands-on vocational training and holistic social services to at-risk, unemployed adults. Since the recession of 2008, DCCK has empowered more than 350 men and women to replace homelessness, addiction, and incarceration with new careers and new lives. Finally, DCCK is a pioneer in the realm of social enterprise; the Kitchen generates millions of dollars in annual revenue through a variety of business ventures that employ its at-risk culinary graduates at living wages while bringing healthy food to a variety of clients.

### **About CoBank**

CoBank is a \$90 billion cooperative bank serving vital industries across rural America. The bank provides loans, leases, export financing and other financial services to agribusinesses and rural power, water and communications providers in all 50 states. The bank also provides wholesale loans and other financial services to affiliated Farm Credit associations serving more than 70,000 farmers, ranchers and other rural borrowers in 23 states around the country.

CoBank is a member of the Farm Credit System, a nationwide network of banks and retail lending associations chartered to support the borrowing needs of U.S. agriculture and the nation’s rural economy. Headquartered outside Denver, Colorado, CoBank serves customers from regional banking centers across the U.S. and also maintains an international representative office in Singapore.

For more information about CoBank, visit the bank's web site at [www.cobank.com](http://www.cobank.com).

### **Contact**

Arthur Hodges  
Senior Vice President, Corporate Communications  
303-740-4061  
[ahodges@cobank.com](mailto:ahodges@cobank.com)

Dan Haley  
Director of Corporate Communications  
303-793-2239  
[dhaley@cobank.com](mailto:dhaley@cobank.com)

Sherry Johnson  
Corporate Communications Manager  
303-740-6518  
[sjohnson@cobank.com](mailto:sjohnson@cobank.com)