Stomp out hunger: All collegiate shoe drive September 28-October 19, 2013

This fall, Missouri State University, along with Ozarks Technical College, Drury University, Evangel University, and Southwest Baptist University, will join together for a cooperative community service project. This project, "Stomp out hunger: All collegiate shoe drive," embodies the MSU Public Affairs Mission as well as the 2013-14 public affairs theme, *Global Perspective: Why it matters*. The shoe drive will take place on all five campuses, September 28-October 19, 2013. The collected shoes will be donated to Springfield-based Sole Food, a project of Friends Against Hunger. Once shoes are collected Sole Food, in affiliation with Shoeman Water Projects (who provides shipping of the shoes to the port in Miami), exports those shoes to developing countries. 100% of the funds Sole Food generates from the export of their collected shoes goes to Friends Against Hunger, a Springfield-based non-profit that packages and distributes meals to hungry people in the US and around the world. By donating used shoes, students, faculty, and staff will provide not only shoes, but also food and clean water to those in need around the world. This project is a true embodiment of MSU's Public Affairs mission.

To add excitement to the process, Stomp Out Hunger will attempt to break a Guinness World Record for the longest string of shoes! (Record subject to verification from the Guinness World Record organization.) The current record of 12,481 pairs of shoes is held by the Shoeman Water Project who displayed the shoes at the University of Missouri on May 7, 2011. George Hutchings, the "shoeman," is excited for MSU to attempt the record. In his words, "records are made to be broken!" George believes that the more shoes collected, the more opportunities for people to have shoes for their feet and fresh water to drink. He plans to be in Springfield to witness the attempt. While all types of shoes will be collected, only shoes with laces can be used to break the world record. The record attempt will consist of spelling out the words "Stomp Out Hunger" with laced shoes positioned toe-to-heel in a continuous string. The shoe layout will take place at Hammons Field in Springfield on Saturday, October 26. The public is invited to view the process throughout the day.

Local social entrepreneur Bryan Simpson, owner of 5 pound Apparel, has designed a Stomp Out Hunger t-shirt. Each t-shirt purchased will provide 50 meals to the needy (packaged by Friends Against Hunger) as well as promote awareness of the shoe drive. Then, Friends Against Hunger will package ONE MILLION MEALS at the Springfield Expo Center, November 15-17. Students, faculty, staff and alumni are invited to participate by 1) purchasing Stomp Out Hunger t-shirts at 5 Pound Apparel or the MSU bookstore, and 2) volunteering to package meals Nov. 15 - 17. Sign up to volunteer at www.fahunger.

Shoe collection sites will be available across campus. MSU's collection sites are listed on the Public Affairs website (www.publicaffairs.missouristate.edu/CommunityEngagement/). A collection site will also be set up in BearFest Village during MSU Homecoming festivities on Saturday, October 19. All wearable shoes are acceptable (no holes, please).

For more information about this exciting MSU community engagement project, contact Mary Ann Wood, Director of Public Affairs Support, 417-836-5073 or maryannwood@missouristate.edu.