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MEMORANDUM

DATE: JULY 2010
TO: SHARE HOST SITE LEADERS
FROM: PAULETTE FLYNN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
RE: A NOTE ABOUT THE NUMBERS

We have heard from many of you that you are feeling discouraged by the drop in participation at your host site. We know that there are several factors that contribute to the decline, which makes it hard for us to know exactly how to respond.

We hear that many of regular SHARE members are now forced to turn to the local food pantry for help. In some cases, competition from Angel Food Ministries and/or other programs is drawing people away. And generally during the summer months, SHARE sees a dip in participation as families' regular routines are disrupted by travel and other activities.

In the face of this, some sites are wondering if they should remain open to serve their shrinking membership. The answer to this question will be different from site to site.

While it's true that recently SHARE has seen a decline in participation, this is not entirely new in our history. What's important in these hard times is not how large the dollar amount of your order is, but that you are there to help those who are counting on you.

We encourage you to hang in there and stay strong, so that when the economy shifts again your host site will carry on as an important resource for people in your community.

Whether your numbers are up or down, we hope you will reach out with the same hospitable spirit that makes SHARE unique. Long after the food is gone, what people will remember about being part of SHARE is that you were there with a smile and a kind word when they needed you. We thank you for this spirit of service and will stand with you as you continue to help people in your community.