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## **CHEFS FOR HUMANITY PRESIDENT CAT CORA JOINS UNICEF AS SPOKESPERSON**

### *Sets Food Crisis in Malawi as Top Priority*

**NEW YORK (January 20, 2006)**—Chefs for Humanity and the United States Fund for UNICEF today announced the naming of celebrity chef, Cat Cora as the newest UNICEF spokesperson to help heighten awareness of humanitarian crises around the world.

“So many children and families in this world are hungry every day,” Cora said. “They don’t have proper food, adequate nutrition, and in many instances the infrastructure in place to make their lives better. We have to help. As someone who has made a living with food, I had to help. That is why I founded Chefs for Humanity and that is why we are proud to join the U.S. Fund for UNICEF in raising awareness of some of their important works.”

Ms. Cora, who recently became the first female Iron Chef on the Food Network’s *Iron Chef America*, also was also a co-founder and serves as president of Chefs for Humanity, a non-profit organization dedicated to changing lives impacted by hunger and tragedy.

“We are very pleased to have the ongoing support of Chefs for Humanity and welcome Chef Cat Cora to the family,” said Charles J. Lyons, president of the U.S. Fund for UNICEF. “An overwhelming number of children in the developing world suffer from malnutrition during the first five years of life. Poor nutrition can steal a child’s potential and is known to lead to some form of physical and/or mental disability or developmental delay. Cat is perfectly poised to help UNICEF inspire others to take action and help children get the best start in life.”

Ms. Cora’s first priority as a UNICEF spokesperson will be to raise awareness of the current plight of children in Malawi. The African country is currently facing a humanitarian crisis that includes a severe food shortage and rampant HIV infection. Current estimates indicate that over four million Malawians will be confronted with an inadequate food supply between now and the next harvest in March 2006. UNICEF needs to raise \$2.5M to preposition critical supplies that will help children get through the food shortage.

As challenging as treating large numbers of severely malnourished children is, when malnutrition combines with HIV/AIDS, the results can be catastrophic. Timely diagnosis of HIV is critical in identifying children whose nutritional status is at risk of deterioration as a result of HIV. Sadly, counseling and testing facilities are not widely available in Malawi and the low acceptance of testing means that HIV in malnourished children goes undetected for long periods. By the time their

caregivers seek treatment, HIV positive children are generally more wasted and less likely to respond to treatment.

**About Chefs for Humanity**

Chefs for Humanity is a grassroots coalition of chefs and culinary professionals working together to raise funds and provide resources for important humanitarian relief efforts. We as an organization have instilled faith in thousands and are committed to providing the same support to countless others throughout the world. To learn more or to get involved, visit [www.chefsforhumanity.org](http://www.chefsforhumanity.org)

**About UNICEF**

Founded in 1946, UNICEF helps save, protect and improve the lives of children in 157 countries through immunization, education, health care, nutrition, clean water and sanitation. UNICEF is nonpartisan and its cooperation is free of discrimination. In everything it does, the most disadvantaged children and the countries in greatest need have priority. For more information about UNICEF or to make a donation, please visit [www.unicefusa.org](http://www.unicefusa.org) or call 1-800-4UNICEF.

*Additional press information, project details, graphics and/or photographs to accompany this release can be obtained by members of the media by contacting Steve Weiner, Director of Marketing, Chefs for Humanity, 773.575.9453. Or Debra Rainey, Executive Director, Chefs for Humanity at 630.640.8347.*

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