

## **Worcester County Food Bank Chosen for 2007 *Catalogue for Philanthropy***

The Worcester County Food Bank in Shrewsbury has been selected for listing in the 2007 prestigious Massachusetts *Catalogue for Philanthropy*. This year 390 charities applied for new listings, and 54 were selected, as “examples of excellence” in all fields of Massachusetts philanthropy—the environment, culture (arts and education), human services and international. According to George McCully, President of the *Catalogue*, “Worcester County Food Bank was chosen because they are a great example of ‘private initiatives for public good, focusing on quality of life’ in Massachusetts, and because they are both excellent and cost-effective. We urge donors, especially in the Central Massachusetts area, to consider adding Worcester County Food Bank to their giving list this year.”

The purpose of the *Catalogue*, now in its 11th year of annual publication, is “to strengthen the culture of philanthropy in Massachusetts...through donor education...” “The *Catalogue* is designed as a showcase for Massachusetts philanthropy,” McCully said, “and a one-stop shop for a family's charitable giving. A single check, electronic transaction over the web, or stock transfer, can be allocated to as many charities as the donor pleases, and because the *Catalogue* is paid-for by its philanthropic sponsors, 100% of every donation goes to the designated charities or fields of philanthropy.” This year it is mailed to 120,000 homes statewide, and is available to everyone on the web, at [www.cfp-ma.org](http://www.cfp-ma.org)

Once again this year, the day after Thanksgiving has been declared “Giving Massachusetts Day”. In his proclamation, Governor Deval Patrick urges all citizens and families to respond generously to the annual year-end appeals they have received from charities. Since 1997, charitable giving here has more than doubled, from about \$2 billion to \$4.4 billion—a record high for us—in 2005, the latest numbers available.