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***The Art Center of Corpus Christi, Metro Ministries and the Food Bank
Raise Awareness of Hunger Related Issues this November***

Hunger. "The painful sensation or state of weakness caused by the need of food."

This November, the Art Center of Corpus Christi, Metro Ministries and the Food Bank are joining forces to raise awareness of the issue of **hunger** through presenting a visual/audio exhibition, **About Hunger and Resilience** by renowned photographer **Michael Nye**. To bring focus to the issue, all three organizations have organized a "hunger vigil" with community members fasting in the days leading up to the exhibition.

Nye's exhibition will show at The Art Center from November 20th through December 29th. In conjunction with the exhibition, The Art Center, Metro Ministries, and the Food Bank have asked community leaders and representatives from each of the three organizations, to partake in one 12-hour shift of fasting from food, 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. throughout the week of November 12th – 20th. Corpus Christi Mayor Joe Adame has signed up to participate in the fast on Monday, November 15th.

The purpose of the "hunger vigil" is for participants to not only feel sensations of hunger, but to share their experience with those around them, including the local media. "Our goal is to keep this important issue before the community all week long leading up to Michael Nye's dramatic exhibition," says Art Center Managing Director Bob Baker.

For 4 ½ years photographer Michael Nye traveled throughout the United States and listened to hundreds of people tell their stories of hunger and resilience. In his artist statement (michaelnye.org), Nye states "Stories are places where empathy and understanding begin." Debuted at the Witte Museum in San Antonio, his exhibition includes fifty portraits with supplemental audio stories telling personal stories of hunger with transparency and eloquent detail.

The exhibition will also provide an opportunity to raise funds to fight hunger

in Corpus Christi. Donation envelopes will be available at the exhibition. 100% of funds raised will be used by Metro Ministries and the Food Bank of Corpus Christi to feed those who are hungry.

"Hunger Vigil" events leading up to the exhibition will include a gathering at the start of the fast at Metro Ministries Loaves and Fishes (1927 Leopard Street) on Friday, November 12th at 7:45 a.m. The fast will conclude at the opening reception for the exhibition with Michael Nye at the Art Center on Saturday, November 20th from 5 to 7 p.m. All events are open to the public and are free admission.

If you would like to participate in the fast or would like additional information, please contact The Art Center of Corpus Christi's Development and Marketing Manager, Jessica Thomason at Jessica@artcentercc.org, 361-510-6887.

WHO: The Art Center of Corpus Christi, Metro Ministries, The Food Bank and Corpus Christi community leaders and representatives

WHAT: A community wide fast and "Hunger Vigil" and visual/audio exhibition by Michael Nye, "About Hunger & Resilience"

WHEN: "Hunger Vigil" is November 12th – 20th, "About Hunger & Resilience" exhibition is November 20th – December 29th

WHERE: Exhibition is at The Art Center of Corpus Christi, "Hunger Vigil" is community wide with an opening event at Metro Ministries Loaves & Fishes

WHY: To raise awareness of hunger related issues locally and nationwide.

About the Art Center of Corpus Christi

The Art Center of Corpus Christi (www.artcentercc.org <<http://www.artcentercc.org>>), (361) 884-6406) was founded as a community art center and 501 (c) 3 non-profit organization in 1972. "The Center" provides an environment for creative expression with educational programs and exhibition of the arts. Its facilities house art organizations, five gallery spaces, and studio space for art classes. *The Art Center* is located at 100 Shoreline Drive on Corpus Christi's historic bay front. Its facilities are available for weddings, receptions, and special events. *The Art Center* has free admission and is open to the public Tuesday through Sunday, 10 AM to 4 PM.