Spicy Peanut Butter and Chocolate Popcorn

²/₃ cup light corn syrup

¼ cup sugar

½ cup peanut butter

1 tsp. vanilla

 $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ tsp. cayenne pepper, to taste

6 to 8 cups popped popcorn, unpopped kernels removed

2/3 cup milk chocolate chips

½ Tbsp. shortening or vegetable oil



- 1. In microwave, melt sugar and corn syrup, stirring every 30 seconds and watching carefully to prevent burning.
- 2. Stir in the peanut butter and microwave again, stirring every 30 seconds or until peanut butter melts and mixture can be blended evenly.
- 3. Remove from microwave; add vanilla and cayenne pepper to taste.
- 4. Drizzle mixture over popcorn, stirring to distribute evenly. Spread popcorn on a cookie sheet to cool.
- 5. Heat the milk chocolate chips and shortening or vegetable oil in microwave for 30 seconds, stirring and microwaving an additional 30 seconds if necessary, until melted.
- 6. Drizzle chocolate over the peanut butter popcorn with a spoon. Allow chocolate to harden. Then break up the larger chunks of popcorn and store in an airtight container until ready to serve.

Makes 6 to 8 cups