



# Food First

Working to End Hunger in Santa Barbara County Spring 2008

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[www.foodbanksbc.org](http://www.foodbanksbc.org)

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## Did You Know...

America's Second Harvest report, Hunger in America 2006, found that 42.6 percent of the adult clients they serve live in suburban or rural areas.

## Prepared for the Challenges that lie Ahead!

With expanding programs, new member agencies, and an ever increasing need for larger amounts of nutritious food and produce, the Foodbank of Santa Barbara County is looking at an era of change and one of many challenges. One major challenge the Foodbank is efficiently tackling is the increased need for food distributions to the underserved and to the rural areas of the county.

Over the years, as food banking evolved, the local systems for social service organizations serving the food needs of the county's rural areas became too difficult and expensive. The Foodbank has made a commitment to develop new and innovative avenues for ensuring that food is available to everyone who needs it - no matter where they live.

Started in 1999, with a small grant from UPS and a donated 'retired' beverage truck the Foodbank made it's first Mobile Food Pantry (MFP) delivery to a small parking lot in Santa Barbara; offering 800 pounds of food to 20 families. Back in those day's emergency food consisted of a loaf of bread, a bag of beans and a large chunk of cheese.

Today, the Foodbank has 11 monthly Mobile Food Pantry distribution sites, with more planned in the future, targeting underserved neighborhoods and rural corners of the county. Two or three times

every week, in church parking lots, community centers and convenient neighborhood locations you can find our Mobile Food Pantry set-up and supplying nutritious and fresh food directly to those who need it.

These "pantries on wheels" play a fundamental role in feeding hungry people. Every month, individuals and families have access to emergency food services which may not be available to them through traditional food distributions sources.

Not only do Mobile Food Pantries offer opportunities, but the Foodbank has made a commitment to providing the most nutritional food available. Each Mobile Food Pantry delivers 3,000 to 4,000 pounds of food including; rice, beans, canned goods, cereal, peanut butter, tuna fish, juice, personal hygiene products and plenty of fresh produce to the most rural neighborhoods in our county.



People waiting in line to enjoy the bounty of nutritious foods and fresh produce distributed by the Mobile Food Panty

## The Working Family



Joel, Martin, and Laura enjoy a moment together after the baby's nap.

Laura and Joel, and son, Martin, just shy of one-year old, live a typical life of the many working families on the central coast. Joel goes to work, and Laura stays home to raise their son. After expenses, including rent, utilities, telephone service, diapers, gas and insurance to drive to and from work, there is not much left of their paycheck to buy the nutritious food they need to feed a family of three. Laura, Joel and Martin Diaz are grateful recipients of food distributed at Saint Anthony's Church by member agency People Helping People.

"All the things we need," says Laura, "just the basics you need cost a lot today; the ingredients to make good food and meals that last." Laura and Joel count their money wisely and know some months the paychecks aren't always the same. "I took the turkey and chicken we

received for Thanksgiving and cut it up so we can make it last." Laura knows that Martin needs the high protein food to grow strong and healthy. "He's growing fast and he loves the bananas we get and he's teething, so he really likes the crackers."

"We receive two big bags of groceries a month with a wide variety food." It is very good, and we'll get extra beans, rice, sugar, potatoes and broccoli," says Laura. "It is fresh and it makes a big difference. It is a good thing and the Foodbank helps get the food to the people who work but just need something extra to make it through the month."

The fresh produce is part of the Foodbank's Produce Initiative. The initiative offers a comprehensive array of services built around securing and distributing fresh produce. Please see our attached Annual Report for a list of our top Agricultural donors and to see more about the Produce Initiative and how you can help at [www.foodbanksbc.org](http://www.foodbanksbc.org).



A smiling Martin grows strong and happy without a hungry tummy.

## Produce Initiative and Generous Help

Established in 2006, the Foodbank's Produce Initiative distributed over 1.7 million pounds of fresh produce free of charge. In collaboration with local agricultural support and a state-wide network of partners, the Foodbank has developed a sophisticated structure for providing a variety of nutritious fruits and vegetables. The Produce Initiative recipients, with the end result of providing more fresh fruits and vegetables to low-income individuals and families, are thankful to the local growers and packers of Santa Barbara County who donated over 750,000 pounds of fresh produce last year.



"It is important for our community to give what we can and to help those in need," said Regional Manager Dennis Peterson.



## Did You Know...

45% of clients report having to choose between paying for food and paying for utilities or heating fuel to keep warm!



## Did You Know...

Approximately 48% of our clients are Hispanic; 31% are white; 7% are American Indian; 5% are African American; 3% are Asian and 6% are from other racial or ethnic groups.



*Did You Know...*

Last year the Foodbank distributed 1,782,030 pounds of fresh produce to those in need in Santa Barbara County

## Partnership for Hunger Relief

America's Second Harvest's "Partnership for Hunger Relief" provides new equipment to increase Foodbank distributions and assist the Mobile Food Pantry program.

Recently, there is a new addition of a brightly colored refrigerated truck to the Foodbank's fleet, enabling us to pick up and deliver more food and fresh produce through our Mobile Food Pantry Program and other food distribution services. This truck was made possible by a grant received from the Ford Motor Company, the Paul Newman's Own Foundation, and America's Second Harvest – The Nation's Food Bank Network.

The refrigerated truck will help deliver fresh and nutritious food to hard-to-reach communities that are often underserved. Donated produce, meat and dairy products cannot be delivered to remote areas unless refrigerated

trucks are available for long delivery routes. This is the sixth consecutive year of the "Partnership for Hunger Relief." A total of 68 vehicles have been donated to food banks around the country since the partnership's founding in 2001. These trucks have traveled a combined total of more than 2.2 million miles and have distributed over 30 million pounds of food to rural areas in need.



*Look for our brightly colored truck throughout Santa Barbara County.*

## 4th Annual Lompoc Empty Bowls – March 26th

Please join us Wednesday, March 26th, for an "Empty Bowls" Lunch, 11:30 am - 1:30 pm at the La Purisima Hall, Lompoc. For a donation of \$20 or more, choose a beautiful handmade bowl, enjoy a simple meal of gourmet soup and bread, and take home the bowl as a reminder of the meal's purpose - to help feed the hungry of our community.



*The Lompoc community celebrates the 3rd Annual Empty Bowls event with great success!*

This event is a wonderful opportunity for friends, families and co-workers to enjoy a fun luncheon while making a contribution to the Foodbank of Santa Barbara County.



*Did You Know...*

In the last fiscal year the Foodbank collected 180,520 pounds of food drive food.

## KCOY 2008 Spring Food Drive April 21 - May 21



For the past six years, the Foodbank and KCOY CBS 12 have partnered together for the Annual KCOY Spring Food Drive. Each year over 100 businesses, schools, churches, and civic organizations join KCOY CBS 12 in collecting thousands of pounds of non-perishable foods for the Foodbank.

Over the years, this food drive has become a vital part of Foodbank food distribution efforts. Look for KCOY 2008 Spring Food Drive signature yellow food collection barrels throughout Santa Barbara County. Everyone has an opportunity to participate.

We hope your place of business, school, organization, and/or church will participate in this year's KCOY 2008 Spring Food Drive and help us beat our goal of last year by collecting over 150,000 pounds of food.



*Please look for the bright yellow food drive barrels this spring!*

**For more information:**

Santa Barbara (South County)  
(805) 967-5741 ext. 101

Santa Barbara (North County)  
(805) 937-3422 ext. 106

## Mark Your Calendar

**March 26**  
Lompoc Empty Bowls Luncheon  
11:30 am - 1:30 pm

**April 21 - May 21**  
KCOY 2008 Spring Food Drive

**September - TBA**  
National Hunger Awareness Day

**October 22**  
Santa Maria Empty Bowls  
11:30 am - 1:30 pm

**November 2**  
Santa Barbara Empty Bowls  
11:00 am - 2:00 pm

*Did You Know...*

96.3% of the money donated to the Foodbank goes back into the community.

