



Immediate Release

Foodbank of Santa Barbara County

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Foodbank of Santa Barbara County Announces New Executive Director

Santa Barbara County, CA - The Foodbank of Santa Barbara County announced today that Erik Talkin has assumed the position of Executive Director. Talkin brings extensive experience to the position, including expertise in the areas of fundraising, public relations, financial and business management and innovative program development.

Talkin also brings to the Foodbank hands on experience having successfully served as the Executive Director of the Community Kitchen of Santa Barbara, where he worked closely with the Foodbank on a number of programs. During his six year tenure at Community Kitchen, Talkin streamlined operations improving services while cutting costs, developed initiatives that an array of innovative satellite programs.

In his new position, Talkin is excited to tackle the many issues that are associated with hunger and addressing the problem of the increasing number of children facing physical and emotional complications due to the lack of nutritious food in their lives.

“What you put in your stomach is as important as what you put in your brain. I believe that nutrition is as important as education – you have a chance to educate the body to be healthy. That is why I am so excited about the Foodbank’s programs to tackle problems with childhood nutrition,” said Talkin.

Before entering the nonprofit arena Talkin, who was brought up in London, England, worked to establish his own media production company. This produced major events and videos for some of the world’s largest corporations. This endeavor allowed Talkin the opportunity to utilize his knowledge of marketing and corporate development, as well as fine tune his business and management acumen.

“Nonprofits need to remember that they are businesses, and need to be run accordingly” said Talkin. “Our shareholders are the clients that we serve, so everything the business does needs to be geared toward helping them. I look forward to sustaining the range of new programs and bringing greater awareness of, and support for, the Foodbank’s important work in the community,” said Talkin.

Talkin earned his Master in Fine Arts degree in Creative Writing from Vermont College. He received his Bachelor of Arts degree, with honors, in English Literature from the University of London, England. Involved in many community activities, Talkin is involved in the Lompoc Theater restoration project.

Talkin lives in Lompoc with his wife and three children.

The Foodbank, celebrating 25 years of moving people from hunger to harvest, provides a vital link between the multi-faceted food industry and people in need of food. With warehouses in Santa Barbara and Santa Maria the Foodbank serves over 200 social service organizations and churches. 43% of those served by the Foodbank are youths under the age of 18. In 2007, the Foodbank distributed more than 6.5 million pounds of food to the 100,000 people in need throughout Santa Barbara County.

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