



For Immediate Release

Foodbank of Santa Barbara County

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Foodbank and Community Leaders Get to Work During National Hunger Awareness Month for the 7th Annual Leadership Day!

Santa Barbara, CA- On Wednesday, September 17, leaders throughout Santa Barbara County will help the Foodbank recognize the more than 35 million Americans suffering from hunger by participating in Leadership Day. The special day occurs during National Hunger Awareness Month (NHAM).

On Wednesday, the Foodbank will host over 30 local community and business leaders to “roll up their sleeves” and help us with the work we do to distribute millions of pounds of food through our network of member agencies. These volunteers will assist at the Foodbank from 8 am to noon and will be educated about the work of the Foodbank and the member agencies.

“We need help 365 days a year to feed the more than 100,000 hungry people in our county,” said Erik Talkin, executive director. “It is very important for our community leaders to understand the impact the Foodbank has and how they can help us and the hungry as they go about their daily work and decision making.”

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 220 social service organizations and churches. More than 43% of those served by the Foodbank are youths under the age of 18. In 2007, the Foodbank distributed more than 7.3 million pounds of food and nearly 2 million pounds of fresh produce to more than 100,000 people in need throughout Santa Barbara County. The Foodbank is committed to making fresh fruits and vegetables available to those in need as the best means of combating poverty-related health issues like diabetes and chronic overweight.

Hunger Action Month is organized on a national level by Feeding America, and includes events across the United States that directly benefits the network’s hunger-relief efforts. From food drives to concerts, volunteer outings to advocacy work, there’s something everyone can do in every state in the country.

About Feeding America: (Formerly America's Second Harvest—The Nation's Food Bank Network). Feeding America is the largest charitable domestic hunger-relief organization in the United States. Through its network of more than 200 member food banks, Feeding America annually provides assistance to more than 25 million people in need, including more than 9 million children and nearly 3 million seniors in all 50 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico. Each year, Feeding America secures and distributes more than 2 billion pounds of food and grocery products to support feeding programs at approximately 63,000 local charitable agencies, including food pantries, soup kitchens, emergency shelters, after-school programs, and Kids Cafes. To learn more, please visit www.feedingamerica.org

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