



FOODBANK
SANTA BARBARA COUNTY

For Immediate Release

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Foodbank in Great Need to Feed Thousands during the Holiday Season!

Santa Barbara, CA. - The Foodbank of Santa Barbara County is working to feed thousands of hungry children, seniors, families and individuals during the 2009 holiday season. The activities began with a county wide Turkey Drive running from November 2 through the 20. The Foodbank needs as many turkeys to be donated before Thanksgiving as well as monetary and non-perishable food donations.

The Foodbank is holding its Holiday Food Drive, November 2 through December 31, and can provide everything needed to run a successful food drive including: boxes, barrels, a food drive information kit, and a poster listing the needed items to make it easy for the community to participate in a holiday food drive at their business, school, church and organization. Look for the bright Green Food Drive barrels at all Albertson's grocery stores throughout Santa Barbara County beginning Tuesday, December 1.

Besides the traditional barrels people will also be receiving a special Grocery Bag, sponsored by Albertson Sav-On, and inserted in their Santa Barbara News-Press, Santa Maria Times and The Lompoc Record on December 3. The nearly 60,000 grocery bags have all the information needed to support the Foodbank including the Foodbank's website - www.foodbanksbc.org. On the website, contributors and supporters may purchase food through the virtual food drive making it even easier to donate food and funds.

“Our neighbors go hungry 12 months out of the year, but this time of year, we have a tremendous need for food and money,” says Executive Director Erik Talkin, “Actually all year long. But what people can give now can truly help to brighten their holidays and provide the badly needed help through the winter months.”

Talkin wants the community to know that the availability of donated non-perishable food products from major manufacturers has decreased over the year along with the traditional food sources. “For every \$1 dollar donated the Foodbank can distribute \$7 dollars of food. All turkeys and food donated for the holiday is distributed free of charge to those in need,” continued Talkin. “All donations are greatly appreciated.”

What: Annual Turkey Drive
November 2 – 20

Holiday Food Drive
November 1 – December 31

Grocery Bags in Santa Barbara News-Press, Santa Maria Times and
The Lompoc Record
December 3 – list of needed items on the bag

Where: Foodbank of Santa Barbara County
South County Warehouse
4554 Hollister Ave.
Santa Barbara, CA 93110
Phone: (805) 967-5741 ext 112

About The Foodbank of Santa Barbara County – We are the largest hunger-relief organization in the county with a network of more than 220 member agencies and programs located between Morro Bay and Carpinteria. In 2008, we distributed over 8 million pounds of food locally and our member agencies used this food to feed more than 135,000 people. The programs receiving food from the Foodbank include food pantries, soup kitchens, emergency shelters, after-school programs, and senior programs. Hungry children make up 43% of the people receiving food from the Foodbank. For more on The Foodbank of Santa Barbara County, please visit www.foodbanksbc.org