

Food first

Working to End Hunger and Transform the Health of Santa Barbara County Through Good Nutrition



fall 2011



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We need your support today. The Foodbank can distribute \$17 of nutritious food for every \$1 donated. Give now at www.foodbanksbc.org.



A happy Picnic in the Park free lunch recipient

Health Not Hunger

"Give a man a fish and you feed him for a day. Teach a man to fish and you feed him for a lifetime."

Rooted in this proverb is the guiding philosophy of how the Foodbank will achieve its ultimate goal to ensure a hunger-free Santa Barbara County. The Foodbank always looks to provide healthy food through both our own programs and to our 270 partners and member agencies. While we want to ensure that there is an adequate nutritional safety-net for everyone who needs food assistance, we also need to focus on empowering our clients to take control of their health. This goal can be achieved by offering everyone nutrition education, the tools to cook and ways to grow their own food.

We know these are bold objectives — but as you will read in this newsletter, we have received a lot of support from visionary funders like local philanthropists Bob and Jeanne Woods; foundations like Walmart; key member-agencies like Catholic Charities and considerable assistance from dedicated volunteers and community leaders.

These partners know our approach was thoughtfully developed through the realization that simply increasing the poundage of food we brought into the community was not necessarily the only solution. We want to positively affect the health of the folks we serve.

Through this new way of doing business, we anticipate the following short and long-term health impacts in our community:

- a reduction in hunger and food insecurity among at-risk communities
- an increase in food knowledge and healthy eating among low-income households
- healthier eating behaviors among children and families to reduce diet-related illness

The future looks bright for Santa Barbara County. This is why we ask for your continued support. We have an incredible few years ahead of us to make this vision a reality. As always, we encourage you to share your thoughts and suggestions as we move forward together.

--Erik Talkin, Chief Executive Officer



Picnic in the Park Program Recipients show off the all-fruit smoothie they made on our Fender Blender

Volunteer Spotlight



"Change is inevitable, hang-on, things will change" is the personal motto of committed Foodbank volunteer Jan Cutler. Jan is a very special volunteer to the Foodbank and a treasured asset to the Santa Maria community. Jan was recently recognized at the Santa Maria Women's Network, Women of Excellence Ceremony, which is a prestigious event that recognizes women in the Santa Maria Valley who have contributed to the community with strength of character, philanthropy and a vision for the future.

Jan regularly volunteers two days a week at the Foodbank where she is instrumental in helping manage our busy front office—her initiative and dedication has led her to become a community leader for the Foodbank.

Jan has dedicated most of her life working on a broad range of women's issues in our community. She sits on many boards and commissions throughout the community. She is most proud of her 37 year marriage and her wonderful daughters.

The Foodbank wouldn't be able to grow and change in the tremendous ways we have without the community leadership of partners like Jan and we are thrilled to honor her service.

A Foodbank First Picnic in the Park: Free Healthy Lunch for Kids

This summer the Foodbank launched an ambitious new program aimed at tackling childhood hunger.

The Picnic in the Park Program was launched in response to the fact that 84% of our local children who rely on school food during the school year get very limited food assistance in the summer. Taking advantage of Federal grants, the Foodbank served up more than 1,000 meals per day this summer in public parks in low-income areas where there are few existing food programs.

The Picnic in the Park Program embodies all three components of Foodbank's new philosophy: distributing the freshest and best food available; providing appropriate nutrition education and physical exercise; and empowering community members to take ownership and drive the program.

Volunteers working out of donated kitchen space in the north and south county, prepared healthy and fresh meals every day. The meals were then delivered to 12 sites countywide where site volunteers distributed the lunches to kids. Activity volunteers encouraged the kids to run and play—we even brought a special "Fender Blender" so kids could pedal on a stationary bike, adapted to a special blender that could make all-fruit smoothies.

Thank you to all of the amazing dedicated community volunteers and a special thank you to the Santa Maria Valley Boys & Girls Club and Congregation B'Nai B'rith in Santa Barbara for donating their kitchen space. With the community's support, the program was a huge success and we look forward to its growth next year.



A Picnic in the Park Program recipient pedals on the stationary "Fender Blender" to make an all fruit smoothie.

Agency Spotlight

Antonio Fernandez and Lorenzo Martinez of Catholic Charities are two of the Foodbank's most frequent shoppers! They've worked for Catholic Charities for 30 years combined.

Catholic Charities is the Foodbank's biggest member-agency; they receive more than 1 million pounds of food from us annually—and more than half of that is fresh produce. Catholic Charities is an important partner in fulfilling the Foodbank's mission.



In Memoriam

Edwin "Bob" Woods: 1917-2011

Jeanne Woods: 1920-2011

With a heavy but benevolent heart, the Foodbank recognizes the more than decade of support by Bob and Jeanne Woods. During this time they have contributed more than \$150,000 to our cause. They were instrumental in our Santa Maria Warehouse capital campaign; they have supported food purchasing and recently funded our Produce Initiative. Because of their generosity, there is increased food security and better nutrition in Santa Barbara County. Bob and Jeanne's philanthropic leadership has prompted their children to become partners of the Foodbank and the spirit of generosity expands and increases. We miss Bob and Jeanne and graciously recognize we could not have grown without their steadfast support.



Launching Soon!

The Foodbank is all about empowering people to help themselves, and how better than giving people the skills and materials to grow some of their food? From distributing seeds and pairing curious growers with certified gardeners, the Foodbank is instrumental in making more abundance for our community. We want people to take pride in their little pieces of growing space, however small, and appreciate the money they can save.

Foundation Spotlight: Walmart Foundation

\$50,000 as Part of End Hunger in America Commitment

In August the Foodbank was proud to host a special check presentation at a Picnic in the Park site at Grogan Park in Santa Maria.

The ceremony was an occasion to accept a recent \$50,000 grant awarded to the Foodbank by the Walmart Foundation as a part of the corporation's \$2 billion commitment to end hunger in America. This gift is the largest corporate grant Walmart has awarded to the Foodbank, doubling last year's contribution. Walmart also encourages employees to volunteer in their local communities as such, Santa Maria store employees spent their lunchtimes volunteering at our Grogan Park Picnic in the Park site this summer.

"We're using every resource and every opportunity we have to fight hunger in our communities," said Mickey Anderson, regional general manager for Walmart stores in Central California. "We are pleased to be able to support the Foodbank of Santa Barbara County's Produce Initiative and efforts to end hunger here locally. Together, we're working with our allies in government, business and nonprofits to meet our goal—making sure that no American will ever have to face a day wondering where his or her next meal will come from."

50 percent of the 10 million pounds of food the Foodbank distributes annually is fresh produce. Because of the Foodbank's purchasing power, \$50,000 will empower them to purchase nearly half a million more pounds of fresh produce for our community. This dramatic increase of access to fresh produce will help thousands of families in Santa Barbara County eat and live better.



SAVE THE DATE

Santa Maria Empty Bowls

Wednesday, October 26, 2011
at Santa Maria Fairpark

Santa Barbara Empty Bowls

Sunday, November 6, 2011
at Rockwood Women's Club

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH



Saturday
October 1st
2011

10am-6pm

Plaza Vera
Cruz Park

130 E. Cota Street
Santa Barbara
(Across the street from
the Saturday Farmers
Market)

Growing
a Brighter
Food Future

SOLFOOD
FESTIVAL



CELEBRATING
Sustainable
Organic
Local Food

Swim, Bike & Run with the Foodbank

Vote for the Foodbank to be the beneficiary of Montecito Bank & Trust's 2012 Santa Barbara Triathlon. Your vote matters: www.montecito.com/swimbikerun. It could mean \$50,000 for the Foodbank and those we serve.

Santa Barbara Women Lawyers Sets the Bar High

Inspired by women lawyer organizations in other cities, Santa Barbara Women Lawyers (SBWL) partnered with the Foodbank for the first annual Food from the Bar food and funds drive this past July and August. The legal community in Santa Barbara quickly embraced the effort and nearly every legal organization in Santa Barbara joined forces with SBWL. Food from the Bar exceeded its monetary goal, collecting over \$6,500 and 650 pounds of food. Their contribution translates into 30,000 meals for those in need in Santa Barbara County. Thank you, we applaud your commitment and hardwork.



"The Foodbank has a proven track record of successfully providing nutritious food to families in Santa Barbara County. We are looking forward to our second drive in 2012 when we hope to make an even larger contribution to the Foodbank."

– Santa Barbara Women Lawyers

SBWL
SANTA BARBARA
WOMEN LAWYERS

Support the **Foodbank of Santa Barbara County**
and you support 270 local non-profits.

www.foodbanksbc.org

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