



Media Alert Immediate Release

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Nation's Letter Carriers are Ready for the 16th Annual Food Drive This Saturday With Donations Benefiting the Foodbank of Santa Barbara County and the Spring Food Drive!

Santa Barbara County, CA – Letter carriers across the country and throughout Santa Barbara County will collect non-perishable food donations Saturday, May 10 as they deliver mail along their postal routes in the nation's largest one-day effort to combat hunger. All canned goods and items collected by the letter carriers from the Goleta and SB Downtown offices and the Battles office in Santa Maria will benefit the Foodbank of Santa Barbara County.

The 16th annual drive is being conducted by the National Association of Letter Carriers (NALC) with the assistance of rural letter carriers and other postal employees and volunteers. The postal union hopes to exceed last year's 70.7 million pounds of food delivered to community food banks and pantries.

"This is an amazing undertaking that will make a tremendous difference for thousands of people in need throughout Santa Barbara County," said Foodbank Community Relations Manager Kerry Main Aller. "The Letter Carriers collected more than 50 thousands pounds last year for the spring food drive and this year it is more important than ever for everyone to participate. They make it very easy; just place the items in a bag early in the day and put it by your mailbox."

NALC President William H. Young said non-perishable food donations from postal customers will help millions of American families withstand the economic downturn during the summer months, a critical period when most school lunch programs are suspended. "With rising prices for gasoline and food, an unbearable squeeze has been placed on family budgets, forcing many Americans to seek help for the first time from community food banks and pantries to get adequate nutrition," Young said.

Donations will be collected along postal routes in over 10,000 cities and towns in all 50 states, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam, and the District of Columbia. Residents are being asked to leave non-perishable food donations – such as canned meat and fish, soup, cereals, pasta and rice – in a bag near their mailbox on Saturday before their letter carrier arrives. Glass containers and expired items should be avoided.

Co-sponsors with the NALC are the Postal Service, America's Second Harvest, Campbell Soup, Cox Target Media, United Way of America, and the AFL-CIO.

The Foodbank, a member of America's Second Harvest network of Foodbanks is celebrating its 25th year 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. Over 43% of those served by the Foodbank are children. In 2007, the Foodbank distributed more than 6.5 million pounds of food to the more than 100,000 people in need throughout Santa Barbara County.

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