



Media Advisory

Foodbank of Santa Barbara County

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Foodbank Lauds CDGB Funding Process and Speaks out on Behalf of Member Agencies who Need the Continued Funding Priorities

Santa Maria, CA – The Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) process has been a good source of funding to the Foodbank and its member agencies. Foodbank Director of Operation Kathy Hayes is attending the special joint meeting to speak to the Santa Maria City Council and the CDBG Advisory Committee members to make sure they understand the value the Foodbank provides to the over 220 member agencies and food programs.

“We’re here to support the ‘family structure’ we have with our member agencies that do incredible work on a daily basis,” says Hayes. “From January through October 2007 the Foodbank provided 2,336,660 pounds of food to member agencies in Santa Maria.” Hayes continues, “The Foodbank provided 339,617 pounds of food specifically to agencies who feed the at-risk, low-income children participating in the youth based service programs the council and committee members are looking at tonight.”

“When considering restructuring the funding priorities, the Foodbank respectfully requests the council and advisory members to recognize that a number of these youth serving non-profit agencies benefit largely from the nutritious foods and fresh produce provided to them through the Foodbank of Santa Barbara County,” says Hayes. “We are thankful for the tremendous generosity of the Santa Barbara County agricultural community who donated more than 750,000 pounds of fresh produce to the Foodbank in 2007.”

The Foodbank 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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