



For Immediate Release

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Santa Barbara News-Press and Albertsons Delivers Help With Thousands of Grocery Bags for Non-Perishable Food Donations to Feed Those in Need!

Santa Barbara, CA. - The Foodbank of Santa Barbara County had a very successful turkey drive collecting 3025 donated turkeys from the generous people of Santa Barbara County. Now the Foodbank is in full swing with the Holiday Food Drive needed to feed thousands of hungry children, seniors, families and individuals during the 2009 holiday season with the help of the Santa Barbara News-Press and Albertsons Sav-on Pharmacy. The activities begin with a grocery bag insert in the Santa Barbara News-Press, which will be distributed on Thursday, December 3. The grocery bag which reads, *"Please Fill the Bags!"* provides a list of the essential non-perishable items most needed.

Bags may be dropped off at the Foodbank located at 4554 Hollister Avenue, Santa Barbara; the Foodbank located at 490 W. Foster Road, Santa Maria and at all Albertson's stores throughout the county. Just look for the bright green barrels. All foods donated will make a tremendous difference in the lives of the hungry throughout Santa Barbara County.

"With the tremendous help of the Santa Barbara News-Press and Albertsons we will have more than 36,000 bags delivered this Thursday directly to the people who can help us," said Executive Director Erik Talkin. "Everything you need is on the bag including our Web site, www.foodbanksbc.org, where people can donate through our virtual food drive if they can't fill the bag right away. Every can of food that is donated and every dollar makes a difference, especially for the lean months coming up after the holiday."

What: Grocery Bag Insert in Santa Barbara News-Press
Thursday, December 3

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

Foodbank of Santa Barbara County
North County Warehouse
490 W. Foster Rd.
Santa Maria, CA 93455
Phone: (805) 937-3422 ext 109

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 220 social service organizations and churches. More than 43% of those served are youths under the age of 18. In 2008, the Foodbank distributed more than 8 million pounds of food of which nearly 2 million pounds of fresh produce to more than 135,000 people in need. For more on the Foodbank of Santa Barbara County, please visit www.foodbanksbc.org

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