



## San Diego Food Bank – Media Advisory

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### Labor union & construction company partner to repair Food Bank warehouse saving 225,000 meals

**What:** Thirty apprentice students (mostly aged 18 – 22) from a local labor union and a local concrete services company are partnering to undertake major pro bono repairs to the Food Bank’s ageing 65,000 sq. ft. warehouse saving the Food Bank the equivalent of 225,000 meals\* just before Thanksgiving.

Using large “riding” bobcat excavators and jackhammers the apprentices will drill and fill 55 major holes and cracks in the foundation (averaging 6x6 ft) with 40 tons of cement. The holes and cracks are a major hazard for employees and volunteers - and a fire safety risk.

The pro bono repairs including labor, major construction equipment and supplies total an estimated \$75,000.

**Who:** Thirty student apprentices from the Cement Masons Local #500 apprentice program and ten Journeymen “mentors” along with the team from Casper Company will carry out the repairs. The apprentices and team from Casper are volunteering their time to work.

**When:** Saturday, Oct. 24. Major drilling and cement pouring (40 tons) will take place between 9.00 a.m. – 12.00 noon.

**Where:** San Diego Food Bank warehouse, 9850 Distribution Avenue, San Diego, 92121

**Why:** The labor union’s thirty apprentices will work for free on Saturday saving the San Diego Food Bank the equivalent of 225,000 meals to help the Food Bank meet the exponential rise in demand for assistance, and the surge in demand during the Thanksgiving holiday. The Cement Masons refer to this in-kind assistance as a “dedication project,” and have assisted many local nonprofits.

Casper Company, based in Spring Valley, is providing major construction equipment, enormous riding jackhammers, a bobcat and tons of cement. The company specializes in demolition, core drilling and concrete cutting.

Commenting on the project, Board President Stephen P. Cushman said, "Saving 225,000 meals will be a Godsend to the Food Bank which has seen record numbers of families seeking assistance. In 2008 the Food Bank fed 200,000 people per month. This year the Food Bank is feeding 304,000 people per month – a 52% increase in one year. We are very grateful to the Cement Masons Local #500 and Casper Company for their incredibly generous in-kind services, especially while the Food Bank is in crisis mode."

**EDITORS NOTES:**

Visit: [www.caspercompany.com](http://www.caspercompany.com) for information on Casper Company.

Visit [www.cementmasonslocal500.org](http://www.cementmasonslocal500.org) for information on the Cement Masons.

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