



Media Advisory

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National Author to Visit San Diego Food Bank to Discuss Obama's Budget and Policy Proposals To End Soaring Hunger in California and the U.S.

When: Wednesday, March 18, 11:00 a.m.

Where: Joel Berg, former Clinton Administration official and author of the new book, *All You Can Eat: How Hungry Is America?* will sign copies and discuss his new book at a San Diego Food Bank food distribution site. Roughly 600 people will receive food at the distribution. The site will also host the San Diego Food Bank's new Food Stamp outreach program. The event will take place in the parking lot at the Community Food Pantry, National City, 2605 Highland Avenue, National City, 91950.

What: Berg will visit local hunger relief agencies to discuss his book and policies that San Diego can implement to improve the county's Food Stamp participation rate, which ranks last in the nation. Berg will also discuss how President Obama's budget and policy proposals could help hungry families.

Berg's book provides the Administration with a common-sense plan to achieve the President's pledge to end child hunger in the U.S. by 2015, as a down payment on ending all domestic hunger.

"Mitch" Mitchell will discuss the San Diego Food Bank's new Food Stamp outreach program and the Food Bank's collaboration with County officials to improve Food Stamp participation.

According to the USDA, from 2005 to 2007, more than ten percent of California residents lived in homes that couldn't afford enough food. High food prices and skyrocketing unemployment have only made things worse, as millions of additional Americans have been forced to join the lines at soup kitchens and food pantries across the country and in San Diego.

As Berg discusses in his book, San Diego ranked last in a 2008 Food Research and Action Center survey of Food Stamp participation in 25 U.S. metropolitan areas. In fact, 71% of eligible San Diego County residents do not receive the Food Stamp benefits.

As USDA Secretary Tom Vilsack announced this week that food-related stimulus funds will begin to be released this month, Berg will also talk about how those funds will help people who are struggling to keep their jobs, pay their bills, and still put food on the table.

Interviewees:

- Joel Berg, former Clinton Administration official, author of the new book, *All You Can Eat: How Hungry Is America?* (Seven Stories Press), and Executive Director, NYC Coalition Against Hunger
- Eugene "Mitch" Mitchell, Chairman, San Diego Food Bank

About the book: *All You Can Eat* has already provoked a national conversation about the causes and extent of hunger – which threatens more than 36 million Americans and 12 million children – as well as concrete solutions to end it. Dan Glickman, former U.S. Secretary of Agriculture, said, "Hunger is a national disgrace in America. Joel Berg has, in a straightforward and provocative way, given all of us a framework with which to deal with it."

According to the Philadelphia Inquirer: "Berg makes it clear that he wants one thing: to end hunger in America. Really." And City Limits Weekly said: "Berg's trademark good-natured snarkiness makes this an eminently readable book that lays out the dimensions of the growing hunger epidemic, and what can be done about it."

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