



San Diego Food Bank – Press Release

Contact: Chris Carter
 619-857-2314
 ccarter@sandiegofoodbank.org
 www.sandiegofoodbank.org

EMBARGOED – SATURDAY, AUG. 29 (00h01)

San Diego Food Bank 2009 distribution statistics show unceasing upward trend

San Diego, Calif. – August 29, 2009 – Imperial Beach up 202%, La Mesa up 144%, Vista up 86%, Spring Valley up 80%, San Diego up 39%.

The San Diego Food Bank releases statistics at the start of Hunger Action Month showing sustained increases in demand from cities across the county.

The Food Bank’s figures compare the amount of food it distributed during the first two quarters of 2008 with the same period this year.

From January to June, the amount of food distributed to the needy doubled and tripled in key cities across the county. The number of meals distributed by the Food Bank in the City of San Diego alone increased from 1.6 million to 2.4 million.

SDFB distribution increases Q1-Q2 2008 vs. Q1-Q2 2009	
City	% Increase
El Cajon	32%
Fallbrook	100%
Imperial Beach	202%
La Mesa	31%
Lemon Grove	144%
National City	13%
Oceanside	12%
San Diego	39%
San Ysidro	29%
Spring Valley	80%
Vista	86%

Based on the number of people enrolled on Food Bank programs and reports from its non-profit partners, the number of people served by the Food Bank every month has increased from 200,000 to 304,000 from 2008 to 2009, an increase of 52%.

From January 2008 to June 2009, the Food Bank's Emergency Food Program, for families in immediate need of assistance, increased from 37,374 participants to 75,594 in June 2009, a rise of 102%.

The Food Bank cites the lethal combination of unemployment topping 10% in San Diego County, home foreclosures and high gas prices as key factors why tens of thousands of additional families, individuals and fixed-income seniors are seeking help.

With the county's population at 3.1 million, according to 2006 U.S. Census data, 480,000 people live at or near the poverty level and risk the threat of hunger daily. 181,000 are children under 12.

SDFB Chairman Eugene "Mitch" Mitchell said, "The Food Bank's distribution figures demonstrate how much this prolonged economic crisis has affected our communities. As San Diego County's safety net, tens of thousands of low income families are turning to us for help, many of whom face the choice of paying rent or putting food on the table. This is why we need the community's support more than ever. Every donation helps us make sure that no one in our community is forced to go to bed hungry."

Editors notes:**Distribution Increases by number of meals Q1-Q2 2008 vs. Q1-Q2 2009:**

City	Meals Dist. Q1-Q2 2008	Meals Dist. Q1-Q2 2009	% Increase
Dulzura	2,985	13,034	337%
El Cajon	206,532	273,013	32%
Encinitas	18,358	36,414	98%
Fallbrook	57,734	115,435	100%
Imperial Beach	16,959	51,246	202%
Jacumba	22,543	27,619	23%
La Mesa	138,823	181,853	31%
Lemon Grove	44,998	109,881	144%
Nat'l City	211,003	239,304	13%
Oceanside	151,422	169,788	12%
Ramona	27,457	43,179	57%
San Marcos	35,224	38,458	9%
San Ysidro	115,164	148,900	29%
Santee	22,094	29,602	34%
Spring Valley	122,189	220,354	80%
Vista	49,523	92,014	86%

Distribution increases by San Diego City Council District

City Council Member	Jan. - June 2008	Jan. - June 2009	% Increase
Sherri Lightner, District 1	109,152	256,000	134%
Kevin Faulconer, District 2	486,211	623,224	28%
Todd Gloria, District 3	185,834	281,422	51%
Tony Young, District 4	594,078	890,835	50%
Carl DeMaio, District 5	7,360	15,090	105%
Donna Frye, District 6	128,817	166,822	29%
Marti Emerald, District 7	220,123	322,914	47%
Ben Hueso, District 8	547,212	591,602	8%

Distribution increases by San Diego County Supervisor District:

County Supervisor District	Jan. - June 2008	Jan. - June 2009	% Increase
Greg Cox, District 1	1,293,029	1,486,193	15%
Dianne Jacob, District 2	551,561	889,034	61%
Pam Slater-Price, District 3	89,908	92,273	3%
Ron Roberts, District 4	1,204,943	1,770,729	47%
Bill Horn, District 5	336,810	396,842	18%

SDFB Distribution Fiscal Year Increases 2007-08 to 2008-09

SDFB distributed 9.1 million pounds of food throughout San Diego County during the fiscal year 2007-08. This increased to 11.3 million pounds in the fiscal year 2008-09.

About Hunger Action Month:

Hunger Action Month is part of a nationwide effort to motivate local action to end hunger. Hunger Action Month will enable elected officials, community leaders and all San Diegans to join the fight against hunger by raising awareness of the food crisis locally and nationwide.

Take ACTION during Hunger Action Month:**Host a Food Drive:**

Host a food drive at your school, business or church. Or host a “virtual food drive” via the San Diego Food Bank’s website. Visit www.sandiegofoodbank.org

Volunteer:

The SDFB feeds 304,000 people every month. In order to feed so many San Diegans, we rely on volunteers who work in our warehouse sorting and packaging tons of food everyday for distribution. In 2008, over 14,000 people volunteered at the SDFB.

Donate money

The SDFB uses monetary donations to supplement food drive donations. For every \$1 donated, the SDFB can provide three meals. Visit our website and make a donation on-line or call the SDFB: 858-527-1419.

Advocate for the Hungry and contact your Member of Congress:

Congress will soon consider reauthorizing funding for the Child Nutrition and WIC Reauthorization Act. This legislation funds programs that are vital to the health and development of our nation's children. It is critical that Congress pass this legislation to ensure that child nutrition programs are adequately funded and can reach the millions of children living with hunger.

These programs include the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs, the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP), the Summer Food Service Program, and the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC).

During our current economic challenges, many families will be turning to our nation's Child Nutrition Programs to ensure their children have adequate nutrition. We encourage you to make a phone call to your legislators’ offices to help educate them about the importance of providing adequate funding for these programs.

###