



San Diego Food Bank – Media Advisory

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San Diego Food Bank to launch new advice clinic and Food Stamp outreach at food distributions

What: The San Diego Food Bank and Councilmember Marti Emerald will launch the Community Cares Project, a “one-stop-shop” at its food distributions where families in need can receive food, assistance pre-screening for Food Stamps and information from volunteers representing a range of companies, charities and government agencies (see below) on programs including housing assistance, employment training, low-cost utility programs and medical assistance, etc.

When: 7 a.m. to 9.30 a.m. (The food distribution will start at 8.45 a.m.)

Where: The food distribution & program advice clinic will be held in the parking lot at City Heights charity, **Teen Challenge, 5450 Lea Street, San Diego, 92105.**

Who: Councilmember Marti Emerald and San Diego Food Bank Chair “Mitch” Mitchell will be available for interviews. Representatives attending from project partners will also be available for interview.

Community Cares Project members include:

- 211 San Diego
- Alpha Project
- American Red Cross
- AT&T
- Armed Services Y.M.C.A.
- Consumer Center for Health, Education and Advocacy
- Council of Community Clinics
- Family Health Centers
- Elder Help of San Diego

Kaiser Permanente San Diego
La Maestra Community Health Centers
Manpower San Diego
Meals on Wheels
San Diego Union Tribune
San Diego Y.W.C.A.
SDG&E
South Bay Community Services
United Way of San Diego
Urban League of San Diego County
Vietnam Veterans of San Diego
Workforce Partnership

Photo opportunities/ interviews:

- Volunteers at information tables providing advice on programs.
- Councilmembers Marti Emerald, Todd Gloria and Tony Young.
- San Diego Food Bank volunteers distributing food boxes.
- San Diego Food Bank Chairman “Mitch” Mitchell

Notes for Editors:

- The Community Cares Project represents a collaboration with over 20 leading San Diego charities, companies and government agencies. Its mission is to provide a range of advice and services to people in need utilizing the San Diego Food Bank’s front-line contact with over 200,000 people in need throughout the county.
- The San Diego Food Bank provides 19,500 meals per day and feeds over 200,000 people every month.
- According to U.S. Census data, over 480,000 people in San Diego County either live in poverty or near the poverty level and face hunger. Of this number, 267,000 are children.
- Over 70% of eligible residents do not receive Food Stamps in San Diego County.
- San Diego ranked last in survey of 25 metropolitan areas in a 2008 with a Food Stamp participation rate of 29%.
- Currently 120,669 people in the county receive Food Stamps. Of this number, 76,731 are children.
- A family of four cannot earn more than \$27,560 (gross income) to be eligible for Food Stamps. And the family cannot have more than \$2,000 in liquid assets.
- San Diego County loses over \$144 million federal dollars in Food Stamps due to lack of participation. The money could be spent supporting local grocers and supermarkets.

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