

HUNGER STUDY SHOWS RISING NUMBERS OF THOSE IN NEED

Last month, Feeding America released a landmark - *Hunger in America* - study that showed that 1 in 8 Americans is seeking emergency food assistance from the Feeding America network of Food Banks. For our community, the numbers are even higher. 1 in 5 people in San Antonio and Southwest Texas is getting assistance from the San Antonio Food Bank network of pantries, shelters, and soup kitchens.

Hunger in America shows that we have more than doubled the number of people we are reaching every week since 2006 - from 25,000 to 58,000.

Hunger in America shows that children are the fastest growing demographic group receiving emergency food assistance - from 27% in 2006 to 36% in 2009.

Hunger in America shows that half of our clients are faced with difficult choices regarding basic necessities - 48% report having to choose between paying for utilities or heating fuel and food; 47% had to choose between paying for rent or a mortgage and food; 39% report having to choose between paying for gas for a car or food.



But the most important thing *Hunger in America* does is provide scientific proof for what we already know - we are providing emergency food assistance to more people than ever before. We see their faces every day in our lobby, at our pantries and soup kitchens, at HOPE sites and Kids Cafe sites - the working poor families, the "new poor", the children, the seniors.

"Our numbers have doubled. Where we were helping 30 families every two weeks, now we are serving 50 to 60," says Pat Stepherson who runs the pantry at Jefferson United Methodist Church.

We fulfill our mission thanks to the support of the community and with your continued support we will continue to fight hunger and feed hope.

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Hunger Fact
 The San Antonio Food Bank has seen a 54% increase in the number of families and individuals seeking emergency food assistance since 2006.

*Fighting Hunger...
 ...Feeding Hope*

The mission of the San Antonio Food Bank is to fight hunger in Southwest Texas through food distribution, programs, education, and advocacy.

Our programs and services reach 25,000 individuals every week through our network of partner agencies.

Thank you for joining us in our efforts to fight hunger and feed hope in Southwest Texas.

Extra Helpings is a newsletter published three times a year by the San Antonio Food Bank.
 Editor: Zuani Villarreal

If you get two of these, please give one to a friend and notify the Food Bank.

San Antonio Food Bank
 5200 Old Highway 90
 San Antonio, Texas 78227
 210.337.3663
 www.safoodbank.org

The San Antonio Food Bank does not sell or share its mailing list with other organizations.

This agency prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, sex, age, handicap, religion, or national origin.

2009-2010

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From Where I Stand

Dear Friend,

The San Antonio Food Bank is celebrating its 30th anniversary this year, but 2010 is proving to be a challenging year. We continue to grow and expand our programs to step up to those challenges before us – meeting the increased need for emergency food assistance.

We have launched a new partnership with HHSC thanks to a federal waiver that eliminates a redundant step in the initiative by allowing the work we do with families count as the interview for the application for SNAP food benefits. This helps families get food assistance faster.

We have expanded our Community Kitchen program into the new Haven for Hope campus. There we'll be feeding the members of the campus three meals a day, seven days a week throughout the year. We'll also be operating our life-transforming Culinary Training program at Haven, teaching culinary skills to the homeless on the campus.

We have participated in a state-wide collaborative effort geared at making Texas food secure by 2015. The **Texas Hunger Initiative** is a collaboration of public/private, governmental, faith based and community organizations, who seek to build capacity by developing and implementing strategies to end hunger through policy, education, community organizing and overall community development. You can find out more about THI at www.texas-hunger.org.

As you read in the cover story, we recently released our latest Hunger Study and at first I couldn't believe what we saw. In the last four years, we have more than doubled the number of people we are providing emergency assistance to through our partner pantries, soup kitchens and shelters – 58,000 every week. If you take into account our direct programs and services that number is even higher. Still, although we are distributing more volume than ever in our 30 year history, the need is outpacing donations.

We are in a better position today to help those in need, with more staff and greater programs, but we need your support to do so. Please continue to donate **Food, Time, Money** and your **Voice** so we can *fight hunger and feed hope*.

Sincerely,

Eric S. Cooper

Executive Director



Policy News

The national legislative policy scene has been dominated for the past several months by the healthcare debate, but the stage is being set for healthy debate regarding **Child Nutrition Reauthorization** (CNR). Every five years Congress reviews child nutrition programs that touch millions of children each day and improves educational achievement, economic security, nutrition and health. Programs include the National School Lunch, School Breakfast, Summer Food Service, After School Snack and Meal, and Special Supplemental Nutrition for Woman, Infants and Children (WIC). The previous CNR was signed into law on June 30, 2004, ultimately expanding the availability of nutritious meals and snacks to more children in school, after school and in child care programs.

Get engaged with the CNR debate...use your **Voice** and advocate for a healthy CNR that we can all be proud of. Call or write your Congress Member and encourage them to support the programs that support our future...our kids! For more information on CNR, visit the Food Research and Action Center's website at www.frac.org.

If you would like to become an advocate, please visit www.hungeractioncenter.org or call 210.431.8308 to sign up.

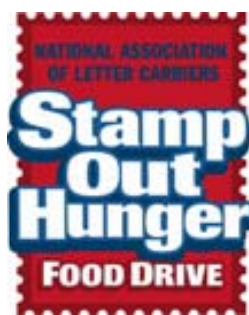
Upcoming Events

Spring is filled with a variety of different events and opportunities to fight hunger and feed hope. It is a great time to partner with San Antonio Food Bank.

Now in its 10th year, **The County Line Music Series** gives patrons an opportunity to enjoy a FREE live concert performed by some of the best artists Texas Country music has to offer. Every Wednesday starting March 10th through October 12, the public is invited to the restaurant's open-air patio for the concerts. Opening acts begin at 6:30 pm with headliners beginning at 8pm. The concert is free but patrons are asked to make a donation of non-perishable food items or a monetary donation for the Food Bank.



Sunday, April 4th marks the 2nd Annual **Feed San Antonio Easter Food & Fund Drive**. Feed San Antonio started as a call to action to all faith-based organizations made on behalf of Bandera Road Community Church. Churches and faith-based organizations are asked to get involved by holding a Food & Fund drive on Easter Sunday and help fight hunger and feed hope.



Don't miss your opportunity to **Stamp Out Hunger** on Saturday, May 8th! The National Association of Letter Carriers and the United States Postal Service will team up to collect food donations and help millions of Americans struggling with hunger. Look for the Stamp Out Hunger paper bag to be delivered during the latter part of April. Letter carriers ask that you fill the bag and leave it by their mailbox on May 8th. They will pick it up and bring it to the Food Bank. We are encouraging all residents to participate in this convenient food drive and don't forget to thank your local letter carrier for this tremendous effort.

We have some exciting news. Our newest venue for the San Antonio Food Bank's 6th Annual Golf Tournament, **Doing Good on the Green**, will be the TPC San Antonio Golf Course at the exclusive JW Marriot Resort. Be one of the first in San Antonio to play at this exclusive resort while supporting our mission. Individual Player entries, teams and sponsorships are available.



Finally, be sure to check out our social media pages. The San Antonio Food Bank is on Facebook, Twitter, and Wordpress. Connect with us directly from our website, safoodbank.org.

Fighting Hunger ... Feeding Hope

A
Special
Thank
You:

- **H-E-B**
- **Valero Energy Corporation**
- **Security Service Federal Credit Union**
- **News 4 WOAI**
- **USAA**
- **Tesoro**
- **KENS 5**
- **IBC Bank**
- **Radio Disney**
- **United Way Women's Leadership Council**

for their support this past fall for Food 4 SA, Harvest of Hope, the Great Turkey Challenge and many other events.

For more information about these and other events, please visit our website, www.safoodbank.org, or call 210.337.3663.

Spotlight on Hunger

I Never Knew

Blanca is a happy person. She has a husband she loves and three great kids. Both her and her husband have steady jobs. She can't complain.

She doesn't complain even though every month they are struggling to pay the rent, the bills, and put food on the table for her family. She doesn't complain, but she didn't know there was help out there either.

On March 1st, when the San Antonio Food Bank launched its partnership with HHSC to process applications for SNAP benefits (formerly known as Food Stamps), Blanca's mother, Dolores, saw the story on the evening news. She called Blanca up and encouraged her to connect. "Maybe they can help you," she told her.

So Blanca listened to her mother and went to the Food Bank. As it turned out, Blanca and her family live just above the federal poverty line – for a family of 5 that is \$25,790 a year. "We struggled, but I didn't know if I qualified for help," Blanca said.

After meeting with a Social Services Outreach Specialist at the Food Bank, Blanca had completed an application for Food Stamps, Medicaid, and Children's Medicaid and received a list of SAFB partner agencies in her area that could help her with emergency food assistance.

"I just never knew," she said. "This is a big relief and will help us out so much."

There are thousands of families just like Blanca's that are struggling but are unaware of the services available. More than 180,000 families are potentially eligible to receive SNAP benefits but never apply. In addition to food distribution, the San Antonio Food Bank provides numerous programs such as Social Services Outreach that not only solve the immediate problems of hunger, but help individuals and families gain long-term food security.



For more information about our Social Services Outreach Program, please contact Yvonne Vaughan at 210.337.3663 or e-mail yvaughan@safbank.org.

Special Feature

Photographer Michael Nye's latest exhibition debuted at the Witte Museum January 16. It will run through April 3, 2010. **Table of Contents: Stories of Hunger and Resilience**, a multi-media exhibition, is a documentary of voices, stories and portraits that explores the lives of 50 individuals who have experienced hunger.



Nye spent the past four years traveling and interviewing people of all ages and backgrounds, recording their personal stories and their portraits through photography. Spending several days with each subject, Nye documented the complex fabric of their lives.

Nye worked with Food Banks, cities, and organizations across the country for this exhibit including the San Antonio Food Bank.

We encourage you to visit the Witte and check out the exhibit today!



Table of Contents: Stories of Hunger and Resilience
by Michael Nye
Piper Memorial Wing
The Witte Museum
3801 Broadway
San Antonio, TX 78209

Agency Relations Corner

On February 21, the San Antonio Food Bank held its Second Annual Golden Apple Awards Banquet. During the banquet select partners were awarded the Golden Apple Award, presented to agencies and determined by votes from SAFB staff and based on agency participation in our array of programs offered to our partners. **Spirit Of Sharing, Food Bank Inc.** was awarded "Excellence" Food Pantry of the Year.

The San Antonio Food Bank partners with over 475 non-profits throughout our sixteen-county service area. Our partners serve an average of more than 58,000 individuals per week. It is through these vital partnerships that the San Antonio Food Bank is able to serve so many in the community with programs ranging from a comprehensive nutrition education program to a social service outreach program that will ensure clients are afforded the best service in application assistance. The other winners of the night are as follows:

Nutrition Partner of the Year: **GRASP Food Pantry**

Social Services Partner of the Year: **San Antonio Christian Hope Resource Center**

Children's Program of the Year: **Presa Community Center**

Hunger Fighter of the Year: **Reyes Rodriguez, Volunteer with Community Angels Food Pantry**

"Best All Around" Multi Service Agency of the Year: **Urban Connections**



Reyes Rodriguez - Hunger Fighter of the Year

The San Antonio Food Bank appreciates all our partners for their enduring service to our community and their commitment to end hunger in Southwest Texas.

Donate today at www.safbank.org

Attend an Agency Orientation to go over processes, procedures as found in the Member Agency Guidebook.

April 14, 2010

May 12, 2010

June 9, 2010

July 14, 2010

Orientations are held in the SAFB training room at 10am.

We also have Information Sessions which provide info about our programs and how to become an SAFB agency.

April 7, 2010

May 5, 2010

June 2, 2010

July 7, 2010

Sessions start at 9am.

For more information about the programs we offer our partner agencies, please contact the Agency Relations Department at 210.337.3663 or e-mail eborrego@safbank.org.



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 www.safoodbank.org

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Fighting Hunger... Feeding Hope

Calendar of Events

Ongoing

County Line Music Series

- Every Wednesday, 8 PM, thru October
- 10101 IH-10 West
- Free with a Food/\$ donation to SAFB

April

4 Feed San Antonio

- Easter Food Drive
- Food & Fund Drive for Churches and Faith-based organizations

May

1 Family Volunteer Day

- Volunteer@safoodbank.org

8 Letter Carriers Food Drive

- Leave your non-perishable food donation by your mailbox
- Help "Stamp Out Hunger"

June

10 "Doing Good on the Green"

- 6th Annual Golf Tournament
- TPC San Antonio Golf Course at the JW Marriott Resort
- Teams and sponsorships available

August

29 CANstruction

- Structures built of food items displayed
- North Star Mall
- through September 12

September

Hunger Action Month

- 30 ways in 30 days to get involved

tbd Hunger Knows No Boundaries Interfaith Event

- Leaders from various faiths unite against hunger

November

1-30 Food 4 SA

- Citywide Food Drive
- Goal is to raise 1 Million Lbs. of Food

tbd Harvest of Hope Brunch & Silent Auction

- Tickets \$100
- Corporate Tables also available

26 The Great Turkey Challenge

- 5K Chip-timed event
- \$20 Entry Fee, Kids 12 and under free

For more information about these and other events with the San Antonio Food Bank or to purchase tickets, please visit our website, www.safoodbank.org or call 210.337.3663.

VALERO ENERGY FOUNDATION



PRESENTED BY:



- Individual player entry (lunch included): \$200
- Four player team entry (lunch included): \$800

Register Now

- Champion sponsor (includes two team entries & marketing benefits): \$3,000
- Eagle sponsor (includes two team entries & marketing benefits): \$2,000
- Birdie sponsor (includes one team entry & marketing benefits): \$1,000
- Hole sponsor: \$250

Sponsorships Available

TPC San Antonio Golf Course at the JW Marriott Resort
 23808 Resort Parkway San Antonio, TX 78261

Thursday, June 10, 2010 - 8:00 am Shotgun Start

The San Antonio Food Bank
 6th Annual Golf Tournament benefiting

To register or for more information about sponsoring Doing Good on the Green, please contact Heather Roberts - Special Events Coordinator - 210-431-8309 - hroberts@safoodbank.org