

SUMMER IS BUSY, BUSY TIME AT THE FOOD BANK

On any given day this summer, you don't have to look very hard to find the San Antonio Food Bank at work in your community. In addition to our regular hunger-fighting programs, several new programs started up to help us meet the increased demand for emergency food assistance during the summer months.

Although over 18 million children participated in the free or reduced priced school meal program in FY 2007, less than 3 million children received meals during the summer months, largely due to the lack of local programs. Simply put, too many of America's kids are going hungry in the summer.

Our **Summer Food Service Program** kicked off June 1 with 125 nutrition sites enrolled, up from 88 last year. Through more sites, we hope to reach more children who otherwise wouldn't have enough to eat this summer.

July marked the start of several programs – some old, some new – for the San Antonio Food Bank. The **Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program** returned for the second year to help connect our seniors with fresh fruits and vegetables grown locally. Also, after a 4-year hiatus, we received funding for the **Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP)**. CSFP provides commodity food packages for elderly persons at least 60 years of age who meet income eligibility requirements. Through these two programs, the San Antonio Food Bank is going to expand its services for seniors in need.

However, the program that launched this summer that will have the largest impact is the **Summer Family Nutrition Program (SFNP)**. SFNP will enable the San Antonio Food Bank to provide a 50-lbs. food box to up to 40,000 families in need every month through September.



Texas currently ranks number one in the rate of child hunger nationally, and number two in overall hunger, according to the USDA. As a result of the recession, many more Texas families with children now find themselves seeking charitable and state food relief for the first time.

Through our many programs, we provide the nourishment families need to make it through these difficult times.

We invite you to be a part of the solution – donate food, time, money and your voice. Together, we can create a hunger-free Southwest Texas!

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Hunger Fact

The fastest growing segment of the population receiving assistance from the San Antonio Food Bank is children ages 17 and under - 36% up from 27% in 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 58,000 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.

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2010-2011

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A Special Thank You!

- NALC
- USPS
- Bandera Road CC
- H-E-B

for their support this past spring and summer.

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

From Where I Stand

Dear Friend,

This year is turning out to be a year of expansion for the San Antonio Food Bank. Earlier this year, we released the latest Hunger Study figures which show that we are serving more than double the number of individuals now compared to four years ago - 58,000 every week up from 25,000!

We expanded our facility to increase capacity in our call center and program offices. The finish out of our mezzanine was completed in May and couldn't have come at a better time as we grow our outreach programs and add new staff for our summer programs.

As our "Peanut Butter & Jelly Deli" launched on June 1 for the Summer Food Service Program, I recalled our first year operating this program. Back in 2003, we served 34,409 meals through SFSP during that summer. This year, our goal is to serve more than 250,000 meals and at last count (July 27) we were topping 200,000 meals.

In addition, as you read in our cover story, we have several new programs to serve families and seniors in need during the summer and throughout the year.

Our growth will continue in 2011 with a new "client-choice" pantry in Comal County thanks to a grant from the McKenna Legacy Foundation. This new pantry will enable the San Antonio Food Bank to better serve that

community through emergency food assistance as well as Social Service Outreach and Nutrition Education. We're excited about this new endeavor and will continue to share updates on it through our website.

All of this cannot be accomplished without the help of the community through donations of Food, Time, Money and your Voice. From the volunteers that start preparing summer meals at 8am to the catering company that takes that extra step to donate left over prepared food. From our individual supporters and corporate donors to our advocates sending emails to their congressman to support a strong Child Nutrition bill. We are only a reflection of our community - it is you who has made us so successful.

Sincerely,



Eric S. Cooper
President/CEO



Policy News

Recently the Food Research and Action Center (FRAC) along with Feeding America circulated a funding support letter and encouraged agencies and individuals to sign onto it and to write their U.S. Senate Members to urge them to help and support full funding for Child Nutrition Reauthorization. The San Antonio Food Bank will continue to advocate for a reauthorization bill that provides more low-income children with better access to programs and that will ultimately bring us closer to ending child hunger by 2015.

While the SAFB supports swift passage of a healthy CNR bill, it is critical that the bill contains adequate funding to improve low-income children's access to important hunger relief/nutritious programs, at least the \$1 billion per year requested by the President (\$10 billion over ten years). The Senate bill that was passed out of committee contains about half the funding requested. As hunger advocates, we will continue to advocate for the full funding that the President has requested.

Please log onto FRAC's website at www.frac.org for continued progress reports and information pertaining to CNR.

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

Upcoming Events

Our busy fall season is only a few short months away, but the San Antonio Food Bank would like to report of some very successful spring and summer events.

This year, our local Letter Carriers collected over 800,000 pounds of food on Saturday, May 8th. Thank you to all the letter carriers and postal employees that helped make this a great success and to all of you who left your donation by your mailbox that morning.

As to our 6th Annual Golf Tournament, **Doing Good on the Green**, we SOLD OUT! We exceeded our goal and raised more than \$40,000 to help support our many programs. Thank you to all our sponsors and players that participated. The date is already set for next year - June 9, 2011. Be sure to reserve your spot today.

Also, the **County Line Music Series** is still going strong with FREE live concerts every Wednesday through October performed by some of the best artists Texas Country music has to offer. The concerts are free but patrons are asked to bring a food or monetary donation for the Food Bank.

To kick off the fall, as part of Feeding America's national awareness campaign, Hunger Action Month, the San Antonio Food Bank's **SA Goes Orange** presented by Whataburger offers you the opportunity to make a difference. Launching on September 1st and continuing throughout the month, companies and individuals alike will join efforts to raise funds and awareness for hunger relief. Everyone in San Antonio and our surrounding area will have an opportunity to engage in an activity that will help build awareness about hunger and help end it.

Imagine the city's skyline illuminated orange ... corporate employees wearing Go Orange campaign buttons ... a calendar of daily events with 30 Ways in 30 Days to fight hunger ...and media outlets covering their pages and incorporating orange into their broadcasts in support of hunger relief!

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



Fighting Hunger ... Feeding Hope

Spotlight on Hunger

A Tough Choice for A Brighter Future

A few years ago, Leo and his wife made a tough decision that would affect their lives and that of their two daughters. They decided to leave California and their family for Texas.

“The schools are much better here, quality of life is better, cost of living is less expensive. Where we lived, there were gangs selling drugs in our neighborhood. My tools would get stolen all the time. It was bad. It is much better here.”

If you ask his two little girls, Maria and Cristina, they will hesitate but agree. “All our family is over there. We miss them.”



Still, Leo knows he made a good decision for a brighter future for his family. His only problem now living here in San Antonio is finding stable employment.

“I’ve been out of work now for about a month and a half. My wife just found work, but it is getting tough.”

Leo works in commercial construction. He goes to Texas Workforce several times a week, but is having a difficult time finding employment.

That is how Leo and his two girls made their way to the San Antonio Food Bank. He used to pass by every day on his way to work. Now, it was time to stop in.

Leo came to the Food Bank seeking application assistance for federal benefits. Specifically, he is hoping to get SNAP benefits and healthcare for his daughters.

“I’ve used food stamps before when I’ve been unemployed. I know it’s a good resource during difficult times,” Leo said.

At the Food Bank, Leo, Maria and Cristina sat with one of our **Social Services Outreach** workers and learned about the many different programs the Food Bank has available. They were able to fill out the application for **SNAP**, **Children’s Medicaid**, and **WIC**. Thanks to the



federal waiver we received, the Food Bank was also able to conduct the interview for SNAP benefits and receive the Lone Star EBT card immediately. In addition, Leo signed up his family for the **Summer Family Nutrition Program** and now, once a month, they will receive an additional 50 lbs. of food.

As Leo left, he said “That was easy! Thank you so much.”



Agency Relations Corner

Every week, we provide emergency food assistance to 58,000 individuals in need. We can only do this through our incredible network of partner agencies. From soup kitchens to church pantries and community centers, you are our partners in the fight to end hunger in Southwest Texas.

According to *Hunger in America 2010: San Antonio and Southwest Texas*, 91% of our pantries, 72% of our soup kitchens, and 50% of our shelters have seen an increase since 2006 in the number of clients who come to their emergency food program sites.

As we grow and expand our operation at the San Antonio Food Bank to serve more families and individuals, we are also streamlining our organizational structure to better serve our partner agencies.

Our Children’s Programs, Senior Programs, and Agency Relations will now fall under the Partner Relations Division and the leadership of Erika Borrego – Director of Partner Relations.

We hope that with this restructuring, information flow will be streamlined and collaborations will be maximized in order to increase efficiencies. We know that the San Antonio Food Bank is the primary source of food for most of our partners and that they rely heavily on volunteers to fulfill their mission. Funding and volunteers are the two biggest needs.

We’d like to take this opportunity to say **THANK YOU** for your partnership and helping us serve this community for 30 years. We will continue to effectively and efficiently serve those in need but we need you alongside us to do so!

Donate today at www.safoodbank.org

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

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

August 11, 2010
September 8, 2010
October 13, 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.

August 4, 2010
September 1, 2010
October 6, 2010

Sessions start at 10am.

For more information about the programs we offer our partner agencies, please contact the Partner Relations Division at 210.337.3663 or e-mail eborrego@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
- August 29** CANstruction
 - Structures built of food items displayed
 - North Star Mall
 - through September 12
- September 1-30** SA Goes Orange presented by Whataburger
 - 30 ways in 30 days to get involved
- September 1** Kraft Huddle to Fight Hunger
 - In partnership with Feeding America
 - Through October
- September 14** Hunger Knows No Boundaries/Interfaith Event
 - Leaders from various faiths unite against hunger
- November 1-30** Food 4 SA
 - Citywide Food Drive
 - Goal to raise 1 Million Lbs. of Food
- October 26** The Great Turkey Challenge presented by H-E-B
 - 5K Chip-timed event
 - \$20 Entry Fee, Kids 12 and under free
- December 4** 24-hr Volunteer Sort-a-Thon
 - At the SAFB

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.

SEPTEMBER 2010



WWW.SAGOESORANGE.ORG

PRESENTED BY WHATABURGER



Give A Little Of Yourself.

Donate Food, Time, Money And Your Voice To Feed The Hungry In Our Community.

Don't forget to visit Feeding America's Hunger Action Month website to learn more about how you can help fight hunger, www.feedingamerica.org/hungeractionmonth.