

Agency Relations Newsletter



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1 JANUARY 2010

Save The Date

Erika Borrego, eborrego@safoodbank.org

Save the date for the upcoming Golden Apple Awards Banquet on Sunday, February 21, 2010! We look forward to the fun and festivities and our chance to share with you how grateful we are to have you as partners! With your help last year, we distributed over 34 million pounds of food to almost to 2 million people in our service area! As will become customary, we will issue awards in the following categories: "Excellence" - Food Pantry, "Best All Around" - Multi Service Agency, "Agency Hunger Fighter of the Year", "Children's Program of the Year", "Social Services Partner of the Year", "Nutrition Partner of the Year". We look forward to honoring some of our premier agencies and volunteers with these awards. Please join us in this celebration of our valuable partnerships!

Store T.V.

Katie Bond, kbond@safoodbank.org

As each year passes we strive to improve the next, so to start off 2010 in a positive step the Store will be entering the information highway by screen. What this means is the Store will be running information continuously on the television screen in the Store. This will help keep each shopper informed on what is in the Store and what is going on at the San Antonio Food Bank. The goal is to advertise the new or free items as well as sharing new or important information such as policies or recalls. Keeping the lines of communication flowing freely is very important to each member of the San Antonio Food Bank, so if there is any information that needs or should be shared, please contact any member of Agency Relations to have it added. This is just one tool to ensure all information is shared between the San Antonio Food Bank and each Agency.



Pounds per Person in Poverty: How much is enough?

Genevieve Noriega, gnoriega@safoodbank.org

Beginning July 1, 2010, the San Antonio Food Bank is now obligated to ensure that individuals in our service area are being served with an average amount of food in a given year. As a member of Feeding America, the nation's Food Bank network, we are contractually obligated to meet this new requirement. The average is termed Pounds per Person in Poverty and is calculated by Feeding America. The recorded number of people in poverty in a county is divided into the amount of pounds distributed throughout that county. The required network median is currently set at 64 pounds per person annually. Throughout a year a person should receive at least 64 pounds of product when accessing food assistance from your agency. Keep in mind, the network median will increase as more people fall under the poverty guideline.

What can you do to help your agency give more to your clients? For those agencies open every week, come by and shop in the Store *daily* for more produce, drinks and other assorted product your clients can use. If space is an issue, contact Joshua Maratea to schedule a few mobile pantry distributions throughout the year. For those agencies only open once a month, the Mobile Pantry is a great opportunity to supplement your regular distribution with more refrigerated and frozen product. If you are located in our rural service area, ask us about hosting a Food Fair. Need more volunteers and staff? Ask the AR team for websites and resources to post your needs or search for available bodies. If you are not sure what you need, just ask us!

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Nutrition Corner

Luz Myriam Neira, lneira@safodbank.org

Pass on Salt and Sweetened Drinks to Help Kidneys

Individuals who consume a diet high in salt (sodium) and artificially sweetened drinks are more likely to experience a decline in kidney function, according to the American Society of Nephrology (2009).

The effect of sodium on the decline of kidney function was studied over 11 years in more than 3,000 women. The authors found that “in women with well-preserved kidney function, higher salt in the diet was associated with a greater kidney function decline, findings that were evident previously with animal studies.

The second study examined the influence of sugar-sweetened and artificially sweetened soda on kidney function. It seems that there is significant decline of kidney function when two or more servings a day of sugar sweetened drinks are consumed. A more rapid decline in kidney function was noted with artificially sweetened beverages.

The best advice... is:

Read food labels and limit your intake of salt to no more than one teaspoon a day

Limit sugar and artificially sweetened drinks (sodas)

Drink more water (6-8 cups/day)



Return and Exchange Update

Erika Borrego, eborrego@safodbank.org

EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2010

1. AGENCIES PICKING UP AT SAFB WAREHOUSE: Please be advised that returns and exchanges for refrigerated or frozen items will not be allowed after they have left the dock. PLEASE CHECK AND VERIFY ALL REFRIGERATED AND FROZEN PRODUCT AT THE TIME OF ACCEPTANCE. NO CREDITS, RETURNS OR EXCHANGES WILL BE MADE FOR REFRIGERATED AND FROZEN PRODUCT TRANSPORTED OFF SAFB PREMISES.
2. Agencies that placed orders for pick-up and fail to pick-up the order on their scheduled day *WILL* a) have any refrigerated and frozen items re-stocked and be charged a re-stocking fee no greater than the shared maintenance value of the product, b) will have 72 hours to pick-up any dry product ordered. Please note you will not have the ability to re-order refrigerated and frozen product if you do not pick up on your scheduled day, but you will be charged a restocking fee.
3. No credit will be issued to agencies notifying SAFB that they did not receive a certain item. ALL ORDERS MUST BE CHECKED PRIOR TO SIGNING THE FINAL INVOICE.
4. Agencies seeking a return, credit or exchange for product that is received in a manner that does not allow distribution, will need to submit their request to the Agency Relations Manager *within 24 hours of pick-up*. All requests should be conveyed via email or fax, and detail the nature of request and condition of the product. Please include date of pick-up, invoice number, shared maintenance on product, quantity ordered as well as whether you are seeking a return, exchange, or credit for the item. Telephone requests made within 24 hours of pick-up will be accepted, but you will be instructed to follow up with written request as the process will begin once written request is received.
5. AGENCY ORDERS DELIVERED TO THE COUNTIES: Please note the delivery drivers will have a copy of the original agency order submitted on SAFB website and will not accept product for return that is on your original SAFB order. All county agencies with an issue must contact the Agency Relations Manager within the 24 hour window. Drivers are not authorized to approve requests of returns, credits or exchanges.
6. The Agency Relations Manager will notify agency on determination of request and inform them of when to return or exchange product, or amount of credit to be issued on agency account.

Advocacy and YOU...

Mario Obledo, mobledo@safodbank.org

Child Nutrition Reauthorization

Every five years the opportunity opens up for Congress to reauthorize the federal Child Nutrition Programs. With the national debate regarding health care dominating Capitol Hill recently, Congress will soon be focusing on taking up Child Nutrition Reauthorization (CNR) and will be looking at the possibility of including enough funding to make critically important changes to our nation's child nutrition programs. The opportunities are improving access, meal quality and nutrition for millions of children, particularly low-income children in child care (the Child and Adult Care Food Program - CACFP); in school (breakfast and lunch programs); during out-of-school time (afterschool, on weekends and during the summer) and at home (the WIC Program). Thousands of diverse national, state and local organizations are committed to a reauthorization bill that has bold vision to eliminate child hunger...the goal, by 2015.

The 2010 reauthorization offers a tremendous opportunity to create a future for school food in which fresh, healthy meals are more common place for all children...giving them access to the type of comprehensive nutrition education that creates healthy habits for a more prosperous and productive future.

With the USDA reporting that 49 million Americans are living on the brink of Hunger...many of them are children. You can do your part in advocating in support of CNR. Call your federal representative and voice your support. Advocate for a more comprehensive CNR policy that we can all be proud of which will ultimately provide...healthier meals, which means healthier minds for our future. To find out who your federal representative is and other important federal issues, log onto www.congress.org.

Technology the Great

Martin Medina, mmedina@safodbank.org

For all of you who have connected with us via social media we want to say thank for becoming a part of our efforts. We look forward to deepening our relationship by communicating about events and opportunities to give and serve.

We currently have 1,257 Facebook fans and 236 Twitter followers and we post photos on Flickr.

We recently started a YouTube channel || I encourage you to become a subscriber so that you can be notified when we post new videos.

Next year will be a groundbreaking year here at the Food Bank. And we are looking forward to discovering greater ways that we may use technology as a tool in our efforts to fight hunger.

Happy New Year!

Social Media Links

<http://www.facebook.com/safodbank>

<http://twitter.com/safodbank>

<http://www.flickr.com/safodbank>

<http://www.youtube.com/thesafodbank>



What's Next

Zuani Villarreal, zvillarreal@safodbank.org

Stories of Hunger and Resilience

A Michael Nye Exhibit At The Witte Museum, January 16- April 4, 2010

A multimedia exhibit is a documentary of voices, stories and portraits that explore the lives of those who have experienced hunger during their life. Photographer Michael Nye has spent the past four years traveling & interviewing people of all ages and backgrounds.

Pillars of Hope Luncheon

Henry B. Gonzales Convention Center - February 9, 2010

Samministires and the San Antonio Food Bank propose an event to raise funds for some key partners of Haven For Hope. The event will feature Chris Gardner author of The Pursuit of Happiness.

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*Fighting
Hunger...Feeding Hope*



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Interactive Question: The San Antonio Food Bank is looking at adding an Internal Forum discussion board for agencies to communicate with each other to discuss issues or positive tools. Would your agency be interested in using a forum such as this? Please respond to kbond@safodbank.org