

USDA UNDER SECRETARY VISITS FOOD BANK

On June 11, the San Antonio Food Bank welcomed the USDA Under Secretary for Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services, Nancy Montanez Johner. Our staff took her on a whirlwind tour of our programs and gave the Under Secretary a first-hand look at the good work we are doing in Southwest Texas.

As Under Secretary, Ms. Johner is responsible for the administration of 15 nutrition assistance programs which provide nutrition assistance, dietary guidance, nutrition policy coordination, nutrition education and work to end hunger in the United States.

During her visit to the San Antonio Food Bank, Ms. Johner was able to see many of our programs in action: 1.) Project HOPE – distributes groceries to seniors on a monthly basis, 2.) Summer Food Service – serves breakfast, lunch and snacks to children who receive free or reduced priced lunch during the school year, 3.) Nutrition Education – educates children, seniors, and families on proper nutrition, basic food preparation, food safety and food budgeting, 4.) Partner Agency – help

us distribute \$50 million of grocery products a year to over 25,000 individuals per week, 5.) Social Services Outreach – provides application assistance to families and individuals enrolling in Federal Assistance Programs such as Food Stamps and Medicaid, and 6.) Kids Cafe – provide after-school meals to at-risk youth

“The San Antonio Food Bank represents the type of successful partnership a community based organization can have with USDA” said Ms. Johner.

The Under Secretary was also able to see the support we receive locally. That Monday, a group of AT&T Pioneer Volunteers were at the Food Bank packing hundreds of lunches for our Summer Food Program.

Thanks to our partner agencies, staff, volunteers and donors for doing what you do best. And a big thank you to the Under Secretary for taking the time to visit our Food Bank.

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***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 quarterly newsletter of 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. phone 210.337.3663

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 lists with other organizations.

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

2007-2008

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

To schedule a volunteer group or learn more about volunteering at the San Antonio Food Bank, contact Shawn Brady at 210.337.3663 or at sbrady@safoodbank.org.

To learn more about helping the San Antonio Food Bank by organizing a Food & Fund Drive, please contact Andrea Monreal at 210.337.3663 or at amonreal@safoodbank.org.

From Where I Stand

Dear Friends,

We've been in our new building a few months now, and if you haven't been out to see us yet, you really should!



I am so inspired by you, our donors and supporters. The needs of our community are many, and I know that deciding which charities to support with limited resources can be tough. I am truly honored and humbled that you trust the San Antonio Food Bank to be good stewards of your donations. Our dedicated staff works tirelessly to ensure that we are the most efficient nonprofit in Southwest Texas – 98% of your donations go directly to our core mission of fighting hunger.

I am proud to run an organization that can inspire a child to come to our doors with her Barbie lunch box filled with cans to give to kids in need. I am always impressed to see the busy corporate executives who spend their few free Saturdays sorting cans in our warehouse. Every dollar, every can, and every volunteer hour we receive comes attached with enormous trust and expectations that the gift will be spent wisely and efficiently – I take that responsibility extremely seriously.

The SAFB strives to fight hunger from every direction – abating, preventing, educating, equipping – and to do as much as possible with

the resources the community trusts us with. To do this, we rely on diversified funding sources and strategies. Some of the most efficient and effective ways that we provide food and other assistance are through government programs. These programs, including the Emergency Food Assistance Program, the Summer Food Service Program, the Food Stamp Program, and others, provide us with the food and tools we need to get food to families in crisis, and to also help them get back on their feet.

This year the legislation that regulates almost all of the federal nutrition programs is up for reauthorization – it's a Farm Bill year! We have the chance to make some positive changes in the Food Stamp Program and shore up support in programs that send food to food banks, like the Emergency Food Assistance Program.

Let me suggest one more way you can help us make sure that your donations go as far as possible. You share with us your food, time, and money – you can also share your voice. By encouraging our legislators in Washington to support a strong nutrition title in the 2007 Farm Bill, you'll be helping to ensure that the San Antonio Food Bank can continue its work of fighting hunger and feeding hope in Southwest Texas.

Sincerely,

Eric S. Cooper
Executive Director

Hunger Awareness Day Fair

Since 2002, Hunger Awareness Day has provided an opportunity for everyone in the United States to unite in support for one of the most solvable social issues in this country—hunger.

At the San Antonio Food Bank, we held a Program Fair and showcased our many services available to the community. Everything from Agency Relations to our Outreach Program. In addition, we highlighted the good work from H-E-B and Kraft Foods, both strong partners in the fight against hunger.



Above: Sandra Jones, SAFB Outreach Team Leader, assists a client with information about our programs.
Left: Lacey Moy (H-E-B), Eric Cooper (SAFB), and Gail Baker (Kraft Foods)



Upcoming Events

The County Line Live Music Series continues to provide fun and live entertainment Wednesday nights while collecting food and monetary donations for the Food Bank. Thanks to Cavender Chevrolet for sponsoring this year's series.

In July, we will be the beneficiary of the WOAI Concept Home Tour. This amazing 7,000+ sq. ft. house built by Stadler Custom Homes is a sight to see at Cordillera Ranch. Tickets for the tour are only \$10 and can be purchased through our website. Also, for \$50 you can purchase a ticket to the preview party held July 18. Don't miss this opportunity to walk through a \$2.5 Million home!



Our Peanut Butter & Jelly Deli is up and running and we need volunteers to assemble lunches for our Summer Food Service Program. Thousands of lunches are packed and delivered daily to sites so that kids can have something to eat while school is out.

Then, coming up in the fall, CANstruction returns to San Antonio this October at North Star Mall. Plus, our Harvest of Hope Brunch will be hosted by the Westin La Cantera for the second year in a row on November 11. Corporate tables start at \$1,000 and individual tickets are on sale for \$100. Join us for this fun and tasty event benefiting the San Antonio Food Bank.



We'd like to thank our supporters who contributed to the success of our events this spring, including the Letter Carriers Food Drive which collected over half a million pounds of food to help families in need in Southwest Texas.

Get involved! Donate Food, Time, or Money today.

Fighting Hunger ... Feeding Hope

Spotlight on Hunger

Extra Cheese!

As summer rolls on, one of our most exciting programs is hitting its peak. The Summer Food Service Program for the San Antonio Food Bank brings an experience not seen during the rest of the year. Volunteers and SAFB staff work diligently every day of the week to prepare and distribute thousands of lunches, breakfasts and snacks to children who normally receive a free or reduced-rate lunch at school. The work is difficult but the rewards are endless.

Guadalupe Community Center is one of our summer sites and as you enter the lunch room you see children seated at table after table eating their lunch. The kids gobble up their sandwich. They drink up the chocolate milk. They eat everything.

They especially love the string cheese. One girl held up a stick and said "Look, I got an extra cheese!" Her smile said it all.



For more information about the Summer Food Program and locations, please contact Elizabeth Lutri at 210.337.3663 or e-mail elutri@safoodbank.org.

Energy Abounds Around Nutrition

The thought of growing old could be scary for some, but not for the seniors at Salvation Army Peacock Center. Every weekday, they visit, exercise, and have lunch together.

They even get to take classes - dance lessons, arts & crafts, as well as Nutrition Education classes provided free of charge by the San Antonio Food Bank.

As they waited for their nutrition class to begin, this group didn't sit around. They played music on the CD player and danced. They danced to cumbias, to ballads, and even to a waltz.

Just as passionate and energetic as they are for music and dance, they are passionate about their nutrition.



"We need to learn about nutrition, especially me because I'm diabetic," said Jeroviva who was diagnosed with diabetes seven years ago. "I didn't know that exercise helps. I don't do anything at home, but here, I'm jumping up and down!"

Estella, another senior who attends the classes said, "Es bien bonito porque aprendemos mucho (It's very nice because we learn a lot)."

Fixed and low incomes make seniors among America's most vulnerable citizens. Eighteen percent of the people receiving

assistance from the San Antonio Food Bank are seniors.

Through our many programs, including Nutrition Education, we

hope to provide seniors with not just food, but nourishment for the body and mind.

For more information about our Nutrition Education Program, please contact Luz Myriam Neira at 210.337.3663 or e-mail Ineira@safoodbank.org.

Agency Relations Corner

The Agape Ministry, which opened its doors in January of 1998, has been a valuable member of the San Antonio Food Bank for several years. The Agape Ministry is a collaboration between 27 churches of different denominations for the purpose of meeting the basic needs of individuals who are in crisis situations. These churches contribute in supporting the Agape Ministry financially and in any way that is deemed necessary.

Their services range from providing utility and medical assistance to meeting the clothing and nutritional needs of their clients. In order to serve well over 500 families a month, they offer monetary assistance on an annual basis and food and clothing assistance approximately once a month.



When you walk into the Agape Ministry you are very likely to feel welcome. Their professional and sensitive demeanor makes clients comfortable and their intensive screening ensures that clients receive all the possible benefits they can. This includes referring clients to the San Antonio Food Bank for other resources such as Food Stamps, WIC, Medicaid, Long Term Care, and other social service assistance. The physical location is tidy and organized for efficient and client friendly service.

Recently the Agape Ministry represented all pantries by hosting the USDA Under Secretary, Ms. Johner. They provided a tour of their facility as well as an explanation of their services. We thank the Agape Ministry for allowing us to observe them in their everyday commitment to serving clients in need.

We have scheduled bi-weekly agency orientations to go over new processes, new procedures and of course a tour of our new building and "your" new area. Upcoming dates are:

July 18, 2007
August 1, 2007
August 15, 2007
August 29, 2007
September 12, 2007
September 26, 2007
October 10, 2007
October 24, 2007

Orientations held at the San Antonio Food Bank conference room. 5200 Old Hwy 90, San Antonio, TX 78227. All orientations take place from 2-4 p.m.

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@safoodbank.org.

Grand Opening Celebration a Big Success!

On May 6th, the San Antonio Food Bank celebrated a new chapter with a Grand Opening and Ribbon Cutting ceremony for our new facility on Hwy 151. Hundreds of supporters were on hand to mark the event – from partner agencies to volunteer groups, donors to city council members.

In true Food Bank form, we made this festive event all about our mission. Through the generosity of several of our food donors, we were able to showcase truckloads of donated product that was unveiled during the ceremony – even more food to distribute to those families and individuals in need.

All of us at the SAFB want to extend our deepest thanks to all those who made this event possible – our capital campaign contributors, our donors, our board members, and the entire San Antonio community. Together, we can continue to *Fight Hunger, Feed Hope* in Southwest Texas.



Upcoming Events

Ongoing

County Line Live Music Series presented by Cavender Chevrolet

- Every Wednesday, 8 PM, thru Oct. 11
- 10101 IH-10 West
- Free with a Food/\$ donation to SAFB

Help End Hunger at H-E-B

- Donate \$1, \$3, or \$5 at Checkout
- Through July

July

19 San Antonio Living Concept Home

- On tour July 19 - August 5
- Thur-Sat 10 am - 6pm, Sun 1pm - 6pm

August

13-19 Restaurant Week

- Visit participating restaurants for a special menu benefitting the Food Bank

September

tbd Cans Film Festival

- Participating Regal Cinemas
- 3 cans or \$3 gets you a free movie pass and free popcorn

October

3-7 Valero Texas Open

- "Birdies for Charity" by Oct. 2
- Pledge a penny per birdie

7-14 CANstruction

- North Star Mall

25

Food 4 San Antonio Kick-off Luncheon

- San Antonio Food Bank

November

1-25 Food 4 San Antonio

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

11

Harvest of Hope Brunch & Silent Auction

- Westin La Cantera, 11am - 2pm
- Tickets \$100
- Corporate Tables also available

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Krispy Kreme Turkey Drive

- 2 Store Locations
- 10 am - 4 pm

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.

Fighting Hunger... Feeding Hope



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