

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 26, 2008

ST. MARY'S FOOD BANK DELIVERS RECORD-BREAKING AMOUNT OF FOOD BOXES

PHOENIX—In the three days leading up to Thanksgiving, St. Mary's Food Bank Alliance has delivered a record-breaking amount of emergency food boxes to the community affected by the downturn in the economy. Families who have been affected by employment layoffs, the mortgage crisis and rising healthcare costs need assistance more now than ever before, as shown in overall distribution of emergency food. The emergency food boxes contain enough food to feed a family of four for three days.

Since Saturday, Monday and Tuesday, the total for St. Mary's Food Bank Alliance distribution, including the agencies we serve, has been 5,928 emergency food boxes.

INCREASE of 53% of TOTAL DISTRIBUTION FOR METRO PHOENIX

3,376 holiday emergency boxes distributed for ALL St. Mary's Food Bank Alliance

2,213 (last year, same days)

Within the total distribution of St. Mary's Food Bank Alliance, which includes several sites such as 31st Avenue Location, Glendale and Westside, we saw a dramatic increases in Glendale and Phoenix locations.

- **INCREASE OF 95% at GLENDALE LOCATION**
1153 holiday emergency boxes distributed
593 (last year, same days)
- **INCREASE OF 85% at PHOENIX LOCATION**
1,854 holiday emergency boxes distributed
1,000 (last year, same days)

To make a food donation, our facilities will be open today until 6 p.m.

-Central Phoenix at 2831 N. 31st Avenue

-Westside at 13050 W. Elm Street in Surprise

And until 4 p.m. at

-Glendale at 5605 N. 55th Avenue in Phoenix.

Despite the dramatic changes in food costs this year, we are still able to distribute enough food for 7 meals with every \$1 of support the community sends.

- \$25 provides enough food to fill 4 emergency food boxes
- \$50 provides enough food to fill 9 emergency food boxes
- \$100 provides enough food to fill 19 emergency food boxes

To make a financial contribution, you can make a secure donation online at www.firstfoodbank.org.

For interviews, call Kara Ritter at (602) 621-0526.