



St. Mary's
Food Bank
ALLIANCE

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www.FirstFoodBank.org

BREAKING NEWS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DECEMBER 23, 2008

PRESIDENT OBAMA CALLS FOR DAY OF SERVICE, SUPPORT FOR FOOD BANKS

*President-Elect National Support Will Aid St. Mary's Food Bank Alliance
Whose Demand Has Increased 58% Over Last Year*

PHOENIX—President-elect Obama is calling upon all Americans to join forces on Monday, January 19 for a "Renewing America Together" national day of service in honor of Martin Luther King, Jr. At the invitation of the Presidential Inaugural Committee and Feeding America, St. Mary's Food Bank Alliance will hold "Skip Lunch, Feed America" food drives in support of national activities.

However, the need to help food banks is now. The U.S. Labor Department announced in November the nation's unemployment rate jumped to a 14-year high of 6.5 percent as November's drop in payroll employment followed declines of 403,000 in September and 320,000 in October, as revised. Job losses were large and widespread across the major industry sectors in November.

"What this means to the food bank is we are experiencing an unprecedented amount of people who are seeking help for the first time," says Terry Shannon, President and CEO of St. Mary's Food Bank Alliance.

"We must work together – as a nation, as a state, as a community – to provide for our neighbors in need," Shannon says. "This year is different. It's not just those who live in poverty we must help – it's not just children and the elderly – this year, it's our neighbor. We have to do this together. It is for the good of our neighborhoods and our communities."

Details regarding St. Mary's Food Bank Alliance's "Skip Lunch, Feed America" events on January 19th will be forthcoming. Immediate needs can be addressed by visiting www.firstfoodbank.org or calling (602) 242-FOOD.

HOW YOU CAN HELP:

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.

ABOUT THE FOOD BANK: St. Mary's Food Bank Alliance, the world's first food bank, is a non-sectarian, nonprofit organization that alleviates hunger by efficiently gathering and distributing food to 675 sites that serve the hungry. Serving 13 of Arizona's 15 counties, the organization is committed to volunteerism, building community relationships, and improving the quality of life for Arizonans in need. During Fiscal Year 2006-2007, the Food Bank distributed 51.5 million pounds of food to families and individuals, provided enough food for 200,000 meals every day, and garnered more than 230,000 volunteer service hours. Web site: www.FirstFoodBank.org, Phone: 602-242-FOOD.