



COUNTY OF YOLO

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Yolo County Supervisors Tour Food Bank

(Woodland, CA) – As part of acknowledging National Hunger Awareness Day, the Yolo County Board of Supervisors began its regular June 5, 2007 Board meeting day with an 8:30 a.m. special tour of the Yolo County Food Bank in Woodland. National Hunger Awareness Day was established in 2002 as a way to increase awareness and marshal resources to help end hunger in America.

Hunger in America is known as the silent epidemic. According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, 13 million children live in households that do not have an adequate supply of food. More than one-third of families leaving welfare reported that they ran out of food and did not have money for more. Between 2000 and 2001, requests for emergency food assistance increased by an average of 23% in American cities, with 54% of the requests coming from families with children.

The Yolo County Food Bank has been working for more than four decades with a simple mission: “To end hunger in Yolo County.” Originally called the Yolo County Coalition Against Hunger, the effort began as a backyard gleaning operation in Davis in 1971. Volunteers used their own vehicles to gather and deliver to the needy in Yolo County. Today the Food Bank serves 45 nonprofit agencies, 23 school programs and 23 USDA Emergency Food Assistance Program sites.

Local grocery outlets, distribution centers, farmers, farmer’s markets, U.C. Davis cafeterias, businesses, and individuals donate food and produce regularly. Volunteers and staff check, sort and repack the donated food. It is then shelved at the warehouse where it can be picked up by charitable agencies such as food pantries, soup kitchens and emergency shelters, to provide food to their needy clients.

Local studies show that 30,000 to 40,000 individuals are threatened by hunger in Yolo County. The Yolo County Food Bank reaches approximately 20,000 low-income individuals, senior, families, children and the working poor in need of emergency food assistance.

“We’ve all had days when there was literally no time to eat,” said Mariko Yamada, Chair of the Yolo County Board of Supervisors. “But that’s a far cry from looking in the pantry and finding nothing to eat at all. We are fortunate to have a resource like the Yolo County Food Bank as a partner in ending hunger in our own communities.”

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Picture enclosed: Yolo County Board of Supervisors Vice-Chair Duane Chamberlain talks with Holy Rosary Volunteer Joe Muller.