Do your children have enough to eat?

April 16, 2015

Dear Ms. Waldsmith,

While helping out at the Foxen Canyon Food Drive last month, I was approached by a young girl around the age of nine. She spoke softly to me about the difference the Foodbank of Santa Barbara County has made on her family’s health and happiness. I will never forget the humble, quiet, “thank you” I received from her that day.

Through food banks like the Foodbank of Santa Barbara County, Feeding America helps families who struggle to get their children enough food to eat through our national system of food banks and meal programs. Recent statistics have shown that 89% of households with children are food insecure, and 79% have reported purchasing unhealthy, inexpensive food to feed their family.¹

Our client households are diverse in age and race, and Feeding America focuses on feeding children and seniors that struggle to find sufficient sources of nutritional food. Our food bank network reaches over 46 million people in need in nearly every community in the country every year. However, our system of food agencies is dependent on the volunteer efforts and donations of people just like you.

**VOLUNTEER**

In our *Hunger in America 2014* research study, we recognized that 51% of our 58,000 food programs rely entirely on volunteers. Feeding America distributes food to the 46,000 partner agencies that operate these food programs in order to reach clients at risk of hunger. In an average month, nearly two million volunteers provide more than eight million hours of assistance to partner agencies at food programs. These volunteers span all age groups, including adults (54%), seniors (38%), and even children (7%). Our food banks thrive because of your support and dedication to making a difference. Stop by the Foodbank of Santa Barbara County to see how you can make a difference in your community.

**DONATE**

Our *Hunger in America* study shows that the most common source of funding for partner agencies is individual contribution, citing that 85% of agencies receiving some funding from individual contributions and 28% of agencies relying on it for more than half of their total funding. In recent years, these agencies have seen a decreased reduction in available money and food, which has led to a reduction in hours of operation.

With your support, Feeding America and the Foodbank of Santa Barbara County can continue to help operate food distribution programs, educate the public about hunger, and advocate for
legislation to protect people from going hungry through your local food bank. Feeding America would not be able to reach over 46 million hunger-stricken Americans without support from families like yours. Enclosed is more information about the Feeding America network, to find out more and get involved, please visit us at foodbanksbc.org or call us at (805) 967-5741. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Erik Talkin
Chief Executive, Foodbank of Santa Barbara County

P.S. The Foodbank of Santa Barbara County is hosting the Foxen Canyon Food Drive through the month of April and is in need of volunteers who are interested in the wellbeing of the seniors and children in their community. Please lend us your support!