



For Immediate Release

Food Bank Coalition and Friends Ready to Hit the Road for September Hunger Walks

Churches, non-profit agency partners and Central Coast Clergy & Laity for Justice will fall in to fight hunger in SLO County communities

San Luis Obispo County – (August 10, 2010) – The Food Bank Coalition of San Luis Obispo County, Central Coast Clergy and Laity for Justice, and other organizations concerned about hunger on the Central Coast will join forces—and walking shoes—to pound the pavement on September 26, 2010 at 2:00 pm. In a show of strength and community spirit, the Hunger Walk in seven county towns will raise money to help the growing numbers of local residents who are struggling to feed their families.

“We hope that the recession is nearing an end,” said Carl Hansen, Executive Director of the Food Bank Coalition, “but we’re actually seeing the amount of residents seeking our help continuing to grow.” Hansen noted that the Food Bank’s countywide food distributions are stretched to the limit and that agencies that depend on the Food Bank to feed their clients are having a tough time meeting the need as well. “We’re witnessing some of our non-profit partners having to work hard to raise funds for the first time ever,” Hansen said. “Warehouses, pantries and cupboards are all overwhelmed across the county.”

In fact, helping its partners is one of the reasons the Food Bank set out to organize the Countywide Hunger Walks. Each person who signs up to walk and gather sponsors can designate a local hunger-fighting agency as the recipient of 50% of the money in food credits at the Food Bank Coalition. 25% goes to the Food Bank to help the hungry countywide, and the remaining 25% will be donated to Church World Service, an organization that battles hunger and poverty around the world. “Church World Service

piloted the hunger walk concept in our area several years ago. In taking the reins this year, we want to recognize the good work CWS has done locally and continue to help hungry people internationally through them.”

All walks begin at 2 p.m. on Sunday, September 26th, at the following locations around the county:

- Five Cities: Ramona Park, Grover Beach
- Atascadero: Atascadero Lake Park
- Cambria: Santa Rosa Catholic Church
- Cayucos/Morro Bay: St. Timothy’s Catholic Church
- Los Osos: Trinity Methodist Church
- Paso Robles: St. James Episcopal Church
- San Luis Obispo: St. Stephen’s Episcopal Church

Those who would like to donate to support the Food Bank’s efforts or to support a specific walker may do so online at www.slofoodbank.org.

For general information, contact the Food Bank Coalition at 805-238-4664 or visit www.slofoodbank.org.

--###--

About the Food Bank Coalition of San Luis Obispo County:

The Food Bank Coalition of San Luis Obispo County celebrates its 21-year anniversary in 2010. Today, the organization is the only countywide source of large quantity donated and low-cost food for low-income families, seniors, children, veterans and the disabled. Through direct programs like the BackPack Program for school children and the Senior Brown Bag Program, and in partnership with almost 200 SLO County agencies, the Food Bank Coalition will provide more than four million pounds of food for the tables of over 12% of the county’s residents in 2010.

P.O. Box 2070, Paso Robles, CA 93447 · Phone: 805-238-4664 · FAX: 805-238-6956
www.slofoodbank.org