

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 1, 2015

Contacts: Carl Hansen, CEO
(805) 235-2851 or chansen@slofoodbank.org

Wendy Lewis, COO
(805) 235-0919 or wlewis@slofoodbank.org



Food Bank Coalition of San Luis Obispo County Purchases Land for New Facility in SLO
Food Bank will self-develop new warehouse to better meet community needs

SAN LUIS OBISPO, CA – [The Food Bank Coalition of San Luis Obispo County](#), which just celebrated their 25th anniversary in 2014, is looking to their next 25 years of service to the community. In order to continue their mission of alleviating hunger in San Luis Obispo County and building a healthier community, the local nonprofit has purchased a lot on Kendall Road in San Luis Obispo that will allow them to be centrally located and more efficiently conduct operations throughout the county from a single location.

The consolidation of their two current warehouses in Paso Robles and Oceano is a necessary step to ensure that the Food Bank can continue maintaining programs and meeting the needs of those who are food insecure in our community. In the last 10 years, the organization has approximately doubled its size and the services it provides. Food Bank CEO Carl Hansen says the growth that they anticipate in the coming years is beyond the capabilities of their current warehouses, making the recent purchase of land a vital step in their consolidation and service to the community.

The new facility, which will be designed to meet the specific needs of a food bank, is expected to be complete by mid-2016. The warehouse will include loading docks, extra storage capacity, and increased refrigeration capabilities for fresh produce. The Food Bank will self-develop the site, in collaboration with [Specialty Construction](#), [Oasis Associates](#) and [MW Architects](#).

“The opportunity for us to relocate to a central point in the county and construct a warehouse that is designed to our specific needs is a huge step forward in our growth,” says Food Bank Chief Operations Officer, Wendy Lewis. “We’re excited to revamp our processes and create a new, more efficient space to better serve our community. It’s going to be a wonderful change for us and the community we serve.”

To continue their service to North and South counties, the Food Bank is planning special delivery routes and drop off locations to serve the 200 community/agency partners who work with the coalition to distribute food to those in need. Partners will have the ability to order their needed items, which could be packed and delivered to an area near them or picked up directly from the new facility. Not only will the new delivery system increase efficiency, but the cost savings from consolidating the two locations into one will be significant. Money saved from reduced overhead costs will be able to go toward providing more nutritious food to those the Food Bank serves.

The Food Bank has made a commitment to being transparent and open with the community throughout the construction and transition. Updates will be posted on their website, as well as on social media.

For more information about the Food Bank Coalition's work in San Luis Obispo County, please visit www.slofoodbank.org.

###

ABOUT THE FOOD BANK COALITION OF SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY

Throughout San Luis Obispo County, 44,000 residents rely on the Food Bank Coalition and its network of community partners for supplemental food assistance. In 2014, the Food Bank Coalition distributed 6.1 million pounds of food and administered ten food assistance programs including Lovin' Lunchbox, Senior Farmers Market, and Healthy Food for Local Families (HFLF). The Food Bank also coordinates 57 public food distribution sites and works with over 200 community and agency partners to distribute food directly to the community. Thanks to the help of over 1,800 dedicated volunteers the Food Bank's overhead is kept at a low 6%. To learn more about the Food Bank Coalition's work in San Luis Obispo County, please visit their website www.slofoodbank.org.