



Media Contact:

Andrea Keisler
Children's Programs Manager
akeisler@slofoodbank.org
(805) 238-4664 (Office)
(805) 835-5787 (Cell)

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FOOD BANK RECEIVES \$67,000 IN GRANTS TO HELP GIVE KIDS A HUNGER FREE SUMMER

Grants address increased risk of child hunger during summer months when fewer children have access to school feeding programs.

Paso Robles, CA— One out of five children in San Luis Obispo County faces hunger. When schools are closed for summer, kids have less access to nutritious meals as many rely on free or reduced school breakfast and lunch. This is why [must! charities](#) and [Feeding America](#) have selected the Food Bank Coalition of San Luis Obispo County to receive Hunger Free Summer grants to help provide more healthy food to kids when they need it most, when school is out for summer.

“The Hunger Free Summer grants allow us to provide meals to kids, so they don't have to worry about food, and have more time to run, play and be kids,” says Andrea Keisler, Children's Programs Manager of the Food Bank. “Not only is Feeding America making it possible for kids to eat free this summer, but must! charities is sponsoring free Children's Farmers Markets. We want kids to get excited about fruits and vegetables and to bring their enthusiasm and produce home to nourish the entire family.”

With the help of volunteers and by partnering with local school districts, county libraries, and summer programs, the Food Bank will distribute FREE meals to children and teens ages 18 years and younger at 28 locations county-wide this summer. Financial support to make the Hunger Free Summer possible comes from Feeding America's grant of \$40,000 and a \$27,000 grant from must! charities, totaling \$67,000.

“The Food Bank will launch it's Hunger Free Summer Program on June 15,” says Andrea Keisler, Children's Program's Manager. “Through our partnership with must! charities and Feeding America, we'll serve more than 55,000 meals for kids and host 29 free Children's Farmers Markets this summer.”

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About the Food Bank Coalition of San Luis Obispo County: The Food Bank Coalition is a non-profit, tax exempt organization, serving all of San Luis Obispo County through its direct food programs and network of community partners. Our mission is to alleviate hunger in San Luis Obispo County and build a healthier community. Last year we distributed 6.1 million pounds of food to help our neighbors struggling with hunger. Nearly half of the food we distributed was fresh produce, including over 200,000 pounds harvested locally by our GleanSLO program. We collaborate with our nation's network of Food Banks and effectively utilize our team of 1,800 volunteers, keeping our overhead at a very low 6%. To learn more about the work done by the Food Bank Coalition throughout San Luis Obispo County, please visit their website www.slofoodbank.org.

About must! charities: must!, located in Templeton, CA, is driven by a collaboration of friends and business owners dedicated to improving quality of life in San Luis Obispo's North County by working alongside existing organizations to make a greater, more focused impact through collaboration. must! charities fosters relationships through a blend of expertise, research, and other resources, to empower existing non- profits to make strategic, sustainable change throughout the region. must! charities conducts a different approach to philanthropy than the norm and is a combination of a new strategic model of giving, combining both venture philanthropy and social entrepreneur ideas to bring about social change while producing measurable impact.

About Feeding America

Feeding America is the nationwide network of 200 food banks that leads the fight against hunger in the United States. Together, we provide food to more than 46 million people through 60,000 food pantries and meal programs in communities across America. Feeding America also supports programs that improve food security among the people we serve; educates the public about the problem of hunger; and advocates for legislation that protects people from going hungry. Individuals, charities, businesses and government all have a role in ending hunger. Donate. Volunteer. Advocate. Educate. Together we can solve hunger.

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