



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SLO Food Bank to Receive Nourishing Neighbors Donations Made at Local Albertsons and Vons Stores in September

San Luis Obispo, CA, September 9th – SLO Food Bank has been selected as a charity partner for six local Albertsons and Vons stores and will receive donations from their annual *Nourishing Neighbors* campaign aimed at helping ensure every child has access to a healthy breakfast. All donations made at Albertsons and Vons stores in San Luis Obispo County during September will support the SLO Food Bank's Summer 2022 Breakfast Bag Program, which provides local children in need with healthy breakfast while school is out.

"Young minds and bodies need a healthy breakfast to kick off their day," said Andrea Keisler, SLO Food Bank's Community Programs Director, "Eating breakfast improves alertness, concentration, mental performance and mood. We're thrilled to have been selected as the charity partner for our local Albertsons and Vons stores and are grateful to the Albertsons Foundation's *Nourishing Neighbors* initiative for their ongoing commitment to fighting hunger in our communities."

The SLO Food Bank works with a network of community partners to alleviate food insecurity and increase health and well-being across SLO County for our most vulnerable residents. When access to school meals decreases during the summer months, the SLO Food Bank partners with youth organizations to distribute backpacks filled with 21 healthy, easy to prepare breakfasts to children in low-income areas of SLO County. In Summer 2021, the SLO Food Bank packed and distributed over 3,000 backpacks, providing 63,000+ meals to local children, and plans on doubling this number in Summer 2022.

Nourishing Neighbors aims to fight hunger by helping keep food banks stocked, supporting meal distribution programs at schools, and supporting programs that provide food to seniors. As a program of the Albertsons Foundation, it is working to eradicate childhood hunger in America.



SLO FOOD BANK

County Partnership for Hunger Relief

With as many as 1 in 4 children in America at risk of hunger, the funds raised in September will be dedicated to local efforts that ensure every child has access to a healthy breakfast.

“Breakfast is essential school supply for kids to learn, grow, and thrive,” said Melissa Hill, Albertsons Pavilions and Vons Southern California Division representative, “We’re grateful to support the important work of community partners like the SLO Food Bank. Together we are making our neighborhoods better places for our children to grow up.”

Anyone wishing to support the SLO Food Bank through this program can go to an Albertsons or Vons store and make a donation to *Nourishing Neighbors* at checkout September 1- 30.

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About SLO Food Bank: The SLO Food Bank is a non-profit, tax-exempt organization, serving all of San Luis Obispo County through its direct food programs and network of agency partners. The SLO Food Bank’s mission is to alleviate hunger in San Luis Obispo County and build a healthier community. The SLO Food Bank distributes an average of 4 million pounds of food per year to help our neighbors struggling with hunger. Nearly half of the distributed food is fresh produce, including produce harvested locally by the GleanSLO program. Prior to the pandemic, one in six SLO County residents was food insecure. Since the pandemic, hunger in SLO County has more than doubled, and the SLO Food Bank remains in front of this accelerating and tragic reality. To learn more about the work done by the SLO Food Bank throughout San Luis Obispo County, please visit www.slofoodbank.org.

Nourishing Neighbors is a charitable program of the Albertsons Foundation. Each Albertsons/Vons store selects a local charitable organization to receive donations collected during the month of September. Funds for this grant were collected by Albertsons and Vons store(s) in Nipomo, Morro Bay, San Luis Obispo, Atascadero, and Grover Beach.

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