



# Times-Standard

## Food for People kicks off holiday food drive

The Times-Standard

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Food for People, the food bank for Humboldt County, invites the community to participate in the 2009 Hunger-Fighter Challenge, which is part of their Holiday Spirit Food and Fund Drive.

"This year's Hunger-Fighter Challenge will encourage local businesses, organizations, and individuals to donate all they can to ensure everyone in Humboldt County has a holiday season free from hunger," said a press release. "The drive will collect food and financial donations through a variety of methods, with donations going to support Food for People's anti-hunger operations throughout Humboldt County."

This year's drive will kick-off in true cowboy fashion with the help of the Redwood Unit of the Backcountry Horsemen of California this Saturday. The Redwood Unit will deliver non-perishable food donations via pack train, rain or shine, to Food for People's facility located at 307 W. 14th St. The public is invited to greet and thank the Redwood Unit Horsemen this Saturday at noon.

Food for People currently provides some form of food assistance to 10,000 to 12,000 people each month, which is around 10 percent of the county's population; the majority of those served are children and seniors. Within the last year, Food for People has reported seeing the demand for food assistance rise by approximately 20 to 30 percent.

"With the economy still struggling at the national

state, and local levels, we have really seen an unprecedented need arise

locally ...," says Food for People Executive Director Anne Holcomb.

Watch for custom-printed grocery bags that will be appearing within copies of the Times-Standard and the Tri-City Weekly over the coming weeks, which list the various drop-sites throughout the county. All food collected will stay in the community where it was donated to help meet local needs. Donations of non-perishable food can also be dropped off at Food for People's office in Eureka, as well as participating grocery stores and other high-traffic locations.

Food for People says that this year some of the most needed items are those containing a good amount of protein -- like meat, beans and hearty stews, as well as items such as canned fruits and items containing whole grains, such as pastas and cereals.

To join the challenge or for more information, contact Jason Whitley or Michael Canning at 445-3166 (exts. 312 and 314). Information about Food for People can be found on the Web at [www.foodforpeople.org](http://www.foodforpeople.org).

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