



SAN FRANCISCO FOOD BANK

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SAN FRANCISCO FOOD BANK TO DISTRIBUTE 500,000TH FOOD BOX

Monthly food box program for low-income seniors is serving its 500,000th box

San Francisco, November 19, 2008 – The San Francisco Food Bank took over the Commodity Supplemental Food Box Program (CSFP) in June 2004 and since then the Food Bank has served almost 500,000 seniors through this program. CSFP is a federal nutrition program designed to improve the health and nutrition of senior citizens, by providing them with monthly food boxes filled with nutritious food seniors need to stay healthy, like canned tuna, cereal, grains, peanut butter, cheese, dairy products, fruits and vegetables.

Every month the San Francisco Food Bank serves 9,600 seniors, however more than 27,000 are eligible in San Francisco. For the past 3 years the President has tried to eliminate this program; however Congress has restored funding every year. As high food prices threatened CSFP and the Food Bank was cutting seniors because there was not enough money to continue serving, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi put funding Congress' Continuing Resolution to ensure that we would not have to make additional cuts.

This past Tuesday the San Francisco 49ers helped pack the 500,000th CSFP box and on Thursday it will be distributed by the Food Bank. "CSFP is not only a cost effective program – it's a lifeline for thousands of San Francisco seniors," said Paul Ash, Executive Director of the San Francisco Food Bank. "At a time when hunger is on the rise both locally and nationally, we need to continue investing in senior nutrition programs."

Interview & Photo Opportunity

- Bruce Miller, Chair of the San Francisco Food Bank Board of Directors
- Rev. Amos Brown, President, San Francisco Housing Authority Board of Commissioners
- Senior recipients of the monthly food boxes

Date: Thursday November 20, 2008 9:30am

Location: San Francisco Senior Housing Site

3850 18th Street (between Church and Sanchez streets)

900 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94107

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