



SAN FRANCISCO FOOD BANK

For Immediate Release

SAN FRANCISCO FOOD BANK TO RECEIVE SLOW FOOD NATION VICTORY GARDEN HARVEST

Produce will be distributed at neighborhood pantries to feed city's hungry

San Francisco, CA (July 12, 2008) – The San Francisco Food Bank announced today that it will receive all the produce grown in the Slow Food Nation Victory Garden at City Hall in Civic Center Plaza. The newly planted garden will serve as a demonstration and education centerpiece leading up to and following Slow Food Nation's Labor Day weekend event, providing visitors the opportunity to learn about urban food production.

At harvest time, anticipated to be in late September, the produce will be distributed by the San Francisco Food Bank to its network of nearly 200 neighborhood pantries, which provide produce and other vital groceries free to the City's hungry.

"With high food prices squeezing more and more people," Food Bank Executive Director Paul Ash said, "this garden sends a message of hope and caring to the 150,000 San Franciscans who don't know where their next meal is coming from."

The San Francisco Food Bank sourced and distributed 31 million pounds of food in the past year, almost half of which was fresh produce. The total amount is up 13% versus the previous year, with a steady rise in clients seeking groceries at food distribution pantries.

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About the San Francisco Food Bank

Hunger is a serious problem in San Francisco – with 1 in 4 children and 1 in 5 adults at risk of hunger. Every day, the San Francisco Food Bank sources, collects, sorts, inspects and repackages thousands of pounds of food, then distributes it to soup kitchens, neighborhood grocery centers, school programs and seniors in need.

The San Francisco Food Bank serves 125,000 people, and in the past year distributed 31 million pounds of food to the community – enough for 66,000 meals every day. For more information, visit www.SFFB.org.

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About Slow Food Nation & the Victory Garden

Slow Food Nation, the largest celebration of American food in history, will take place in San Francisco over Labor Day weekend (August 29 to September 1, 2008). The Slow Food Nation Victory Garden is designed and built by the Garden for the Environment's Victory Gardens 08+ Program, CMG Landscape Architecture and City Slicker Farms, using seeds donated from Seeds of Change and numerous individuals from around the country. It is made possible due to the support of the Mayor's Office, the Department of Public Works, the Department of the Environment and the Department of Recreation and Park. Materials generously donated from Lyngso Garden Materials, Earth Saver, Bountiful Gardens, Cole Hardware and the Demeter USA. Other participating organizations include: The Presidio Native Plant Nursery, The Presidio Trust, Alemany Farms, Friends of the Urban Forest, Ploughshares Nursery and Urban Permaculture Guild. Funding provided by Slow Food Nation, Seeds of Change and S.F. Beautiful. For more information, visit slowfoodnation.org.

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