



UTAH
FOOD
BANK



Media Contact:

Heidi Cannella

Communications Specialist

c: 801.599.6700

o: 801.887.1278

e: communications@utahfoodbank.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Utah Food Bank & Local Letter Carriers Hope to Collect 600,000 Meals Statewide

Saturday, May 9th Marks 23rd Anniversary of Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive

SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH – May 4, 2014 – Letter carriers and hunger have one thing in common: neither is affected by the season, which is why on Saturday, May 9th, letter carriers will collect food to help people facing hunger this summer. The 23rd annual Stamp out Hunger Food Drive is sponsored nationally by the National Association of Letter Carriers in conjunction with the National Rural Letter Carriers' Association and United States Postal Service.

Utah Food Bank asks the public to help "Stamp Out Hunger" on Saturday, May 9th by filling any bag or box with non-perishable food items to leave next to their mailbox by 9:00 a.m. for pickup by their local letter carrier. This year's food drive will have a different look and feel – in an effort to "Go Green," letter carriers will be distributing reminder post cards in lieu of donation bags prior to the food drive. Letter carriers will be collecting the donations that will then be delivered to Utah Food Bank and their statewide network of 134 partner agencies. All donations will be distributed to food pantries in the community where the donation is made. Alternatively, donations can be dropped off at the closest food pantry or regional food bank or at Utah Food Bank, located at 3150 South 900 West in Salt Lake City.

Donated food should be commercially packaged and non-perishable items low in sodium, sugar, and corn syrup. Most needed food items include beef stew, chili, peanut butter, boxed meals and canned meats.

"1 in 5 Utah kids risk missing a meal today due to lack of resources, and 444,000 Utahns are unsure where their next meal will come from," said Ginette Bott, Utah Food Bank chief development officer. "The donations received as a result of the Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive come at a crucial time as school gets out and many kids are left without access to school meal programs, placing additional strain on already tight budgets."

In Utah and across the nation, this food drive has emerged as one of the largest single-day food drives. Last year Utah Food Bank collected over 768,000 pounds of food throughout the state, enough to provide over 640,000 meals for the 17% of Utahns who are food insecure. Nationally, the food drive collected more than 72 million pounds of food last year.

About Utah Food Bank

Utah Food Bank provides food to a statewide network of 134 emergency food pantries and agencies. Last fiscal year, Utah Food Bank distributed 37.5 million pounds of food and goods, the equivalent of

approximately 31.3 million meals, to families and individuals in need. Utah Food Bank also served close to 245,000 Kids Cafe meals, delivered almost 41,000 food boxes and filled more than 60,000 kids' backpacks to help sustain them during weekends when they lack access to school meal programs. For more information about Utah Food Bank, visit www.utahfoodbank.org. Find us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/UtahFoodBank and Twitter at www.twitter.com/UtahFoodBank.

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