

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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“Check Off California”

Feed needy people via your California Tax Return

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The ongoing financial crisis has highlighted the importance of the Emergency Food for Families Fund. “Last year, requests for emergency food assistance doubled in Orange County, yet the quantity of food donated to the Food Bank decreased,” said Mark Lowry, Director of the Orange County Food Bank.

The Orange County Food Bank is encouraging California residents preparing their tax returns to take advantage of a convenient opportunity to provide food to vulnerable families suffering from the economic downturn. The final page of California Income Tax Return lists several worthy causes to which tax payers may make a voluntary contribution, including the Emergency Food for Families Fund. A portion of all funds donated will be returned to Orange County for the purchase of much-needed food.

The California Association of Food Banks advocated to provide taxpayers the opportunity to make a voluntary contribution to feed needy people. In doing so, California joined 41 other states that allow taxpayers a similar option to make a contribution. During 2009, Californians donated \$613,000 to the Emergency Food for Families Fund. The average donation was \$12.

The California Department of Social Services provided \$33,000 to Orange County Food Banks. All funds were used to purchase needed food which was supplied to local churches, shelters, soup kitchens,

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senior centers and other community centers. Those charities distributed the food to needy people in those communities.

“People contributing to this fund have the potential to significantly increase the capacity of the Food Bank to respond to the needs of people dealing with the effects of today’s economy,” said Lowry.

The Orange County Food Bank is a program of the Community Action Partnership of Orange County, a Garden-Grove-based private charity.

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