



Drive Ideas and Suggestions for Schools

- Request a Sacramento Food Bank & Family Services (SFBFS) representative to come to a school assembly or rally to teach students about our services and outreach while motivating them to help others. For elementary school appearances, we can provide a turkey mascot, by request.
- Schedule student tours of SFBFS so children can see their donations in action. Tours can be scheduled through Leona Doyle at ldoyle@sacramentfoodbank.org.
- Children over 10 years old may also volunteer! Schedule a class or group volunteer opportunity through Robin Simpson at volunteer@sacramentofoodbank.org.
- Organizing, managing and promoting a donation drive can test your students' teamwork skills and creativity. Challenge students to use what they're learning in class to attract donors and express the needs of the people that we serve.
- Encourage students to create their own donation drive displays for campus. This may include posters with motivational phrases, images of happy families, cans stacked in interesting configurations, etc. Send us photos of these projects or of your students helping out with the drive and they may end up on our Web site!
- Encourage students by hosting competitions such as :
 - Elementary Schools - Upper Grades vs. Lower Grades
 - Junior High/High Schools - Upper Classmen vs. Lower Classmen
 - Each grade level
 - School wide – the principal sets a goal for donations from the entire school and students receive a special gift if they reach or exceed the goal
- Offer enticing incentives such as lunch with the principal, a theme day (such as Pajamas or Harry Potter), an eating contest between teachers, or the principal in a chicken suit. Create a lesson or presentation about making healthy choices, the benefits of teamwork, or what results from thinking outside the box.
- Ask teachers to remind students about the drive throughout the day.
- Encourage campus media to provide stories and updates about SFBFS and your donation drive. Student interviews with SFBFS representatives, on campus or at SFBFS, can be scheduled with Leona Doyle at ldoyle@sacramentfoodbank.org or (916) 456-1980.
- Tie the drive into a lesson plan. Use the following fact sheet to reinforce the importance of the students' efforts to help their community.



Poverty Facts

- The poverty level for a family of 3 in Sacramento is an annual income of \$15,020. That's about **\$7.80 per hour** for a full-time employee. The minimum wage in California is \$8.00 per hour.
- The United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, reported the unemployment rate in the Sacramento area at **12.7%** as of March of 2011.
- According to the 2005 United States Census, **over 1.3 million** registered Sacramento County residents lived below the poverty level. That's enough people to fill Arco Arena over 130 times.
- Of those impoverished residents over the age of 25, over **125,000 people did not graduate from high school**.
- The Sacramento Community Services Planning Council reports, "A family classified as working poor may not have a higher standard of living than a family dependent upon public assistance, but will have a more difficult time accessing the community services that can help them make ends meet and achieve a higher standard of living in the long run. However, the challenges for working poor are the same as those faced by the unemployed and/or the CalWORKs recipient: basic needs of **adequate food** and shelter, child care, transportation, healthcare, job training and education."
- The U.S. Conference of Mayors reports that in 2006 requests for emergency food assistance **increased an average of 7 percent**.
- The study also found that 48 percent of those requesting emergency food assistance were members of families with children and that 37 percent of adults requesting such assistance were employed. Unemployment, high housing costs, poverty or lack of income, and high medical costs led the list of reasons contributing to the rise.
- Sacramento Food Bank & Family Services' (SFBFS) Food Assistance program provides 3-5 days of emergency **groceries to over 15,000 men, women and children each month**- enough to fill the Memorial Auditorium to capacity 5 times.
- Over the past 16 years, the Holiday Spirit of Giving drive has helped our organization collect and distribute over **4.6 million pounds** of canned and non-perishable food items for local families in need.