

## Donor Spotlight – August 2009

### Giving Thrives in Unique Ways at Sacramento Food Bank & Family Services

The supporters of Sacramento Food Bank & Family Services (SFBFS) have not used a down economy as an excuse to stop giving. Instead, they have gotten more creative; looking for new and inventive ways to serve as living examples of our core values – compassion, integrity and community. As we lead into a new season of giving with our 2nd annual Turkey Drive, KCRA's Kids Can Food Drive and our traditional Spirit of Giving holiday campaign just around the corner, we'd like to introduce you to some of the donors who have inspired us this year!

John Rodriguez, owner of Smogman on Stockton Boulevard, has supported our Food Assistance Program for the last six years by offering his patrons \$5.00 off a smog test if they bring in two canned food items. This isn't just a special holiday promotion; John offers this discount year round. John simply states about his generosity, "It's only through service to others that we are able to be true examples of the Lord. It's just in my heart to give to those in need."

After reading an article in the Sacramento Bee about the need for business attire for clients re-entering the workforce, the teachers, parents, and students at 18 Sacramento-area Robinson's Tae Kwon Do studios organized their own clothing drive. Their efforts resulted in our Clothing program receiving over 500 men's and women's business suits, shoes, dress shirts and ties.

The past year has seen a new focus at SFBFS on health and nutrition education. We have been able to do that in part through the involvement of neighborhood-organized community harvesting programs. First brought to us by our long-time friend and supporter, Tom Sumptner of the Oak Park Neighborhood Association, this idea has recently spread into the Arden Park area as well. Since March, we have received over 10,000 pounds of locally grown, seasonal produce, herbs and flowers.

Boy Scout Andy Shultz of Troop 633 decided that a simple canned food drive wasn't enough for his Eagle Scout project, so he produced a community-wide drive in Rancho Murietta, enlisting his entire troop and their families in the project. His drive generated so much interest; he had to rent a U-Haul truck to deliver over 3,700 pounds of food and 10 boxes of clothing to SFBFS.

There are many more stories of donors just like these who thought outside of the box this year; ignoring the headlines and believing in the ability of their communities, patrons, and friends to make a difference in the lives of others. We encourage you to get creative and contact Tarah Frost at (916) 456-1980 for further information on organizing your own drive for any of our nine service programs. Of course, we always invite you to visit us at our Oak Park location, Monday – Friday from 8am to 4:30pm to drop off your donations and to take a tour of our programs to find your inspiration. On behalf of the people we serve, thank you for continuing to spread the Spirit of Giving!