

PRESS RELEASE – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Hays County Food Bank
220 Herndon Street
San Marcos, TX 78666
www.haysfoodbank.org

Contact: Pat Tessaro
(512)392-8300 office
(512)396-1977 home; (512)393-7940 cell
Ptessaro@haysfoodbank.org

It's Summer and Children are Hungry

June 15, 2011 – San Marcos, Texas. About this time every year, our local Food Bank struggles with an increase in the need for food. It's summer and children are hungry. Low-income families already stressed by a slow economy now have the additional burden of feeding children who usually eat breakfast and lunch at school through the free and reduced lunch program. Local school districts report that this past school year, 72% of students in the San Marcos Consolidated Independent School District and 51% of Hays CISD students were eligible for this program.

A consistent supply of nutritious food is crucial to success in life. A hungry child struggles to learn in school. A hungry senior chooses between buying food or medicine or air conditioning. Parents work hard to feed the family and make ends meet. Since 1982, The Hays County Food Bank has had but one mission – to feed hungry people. The support of the community helps to bring the security of food on the table and the promise of better days to come.

“These are tough times for everyone,” reports Nick, a Food Bank recipient from Kyle. “I wound up having health issues and could not support the family as I used to. Now, my family does not need to worry about budgeting for food as much – we can have more money free to pay for bills.”

Each week the Food Bank distributes food to families in San Marcos, Kyle, Buda, Wimberley, and outlying areas of Hays County, bringing an immediate and positive impact on the quality of life for people struggling in this slow economy.

The agency is asking people to ***Lend A Hand*** by taking action now through July 31. Opportunity to get involved includes joining the Food Bank mailing list, referring a friend, following the Food Bank on Facebook, volunteering, and making a donation on the website. Visit www.HaysFoodBank.org or call the office at 512-392-8300 for complete information.

Due to the downturn in the local economy, the Food Bank has seen a 36% increase in the number of times people received food since 2007. That year, the agency distributed food to individuals an average of 6943 times a month. In 2010, that number climbed to 9,420 times per month.

The Food Bank has long been on the front lines helping to feed people struggling with hard times, seniors living on fixed incomes, children, low-income families, the sick, disabled, and homeless. Last year, the agency handled over 550,000 pounds of food valued at \$885,580 which was passed along to hungry people at no charge.

People living in Hays County who need of food can call the office at 512.392.8300 for more information or visit www.HaysFoodBank.org for times and locations of public distribution sites. The website has complete information on hunger in Central Texas, how to volunteer and donate online.

###

More information can be found at www.HaysFoodBank.org