

# **Hunger Doesn't End After The Holiday Season Berkeley YMCA Launches Food Drive**

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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On Monday, January 19, the Downtown Berkeley YMCA launched a food drive to collect food donations for the Alameda County Community Food Bank. Members and the public are invited to bring non-perishable food donations to the YMCA through February 28, 2009.

Recognizing that hunger does not end with the holiday season, the YMCA is working to help hungry children, seniors, working poor families and the homeless by reaching out to its members for support to supplant Bay Area food pantries and soup kitchens.

Unemployment, food prices and demand for food bank services are on the rise while household incomes and donations to food banks are declining. Now more than ever before, the Alameda County Community Food Bank needs our help to continue to provide emergency food assistance to the children, seniors and low-income families they serve.

Nutritious, non-perishable foods – canned vegetables/fruits/meats/fish, pasta, peanut butter, healthy snacks, breakfast cereals and dry or fortified milk – are needed most of all.

Food donations can be dropped off at the Welcome Desk or placed in bins near the Welcome Wall at the Downtown Berkeley YMCA. For a detailed list of needed items and more information about the Food Bank, please visit the Alameda County Community Food Bank's website at [www.accfb.org](http://www.accfb.org) or call (510) 635-3663.

For more information, please contact Jennie Lodge, Development Assistant, at (510) 486-8415 or email [jlodge@baymca.org](mailto:jlodge@baymca.org).

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### **Did you know?**

38% of food bank recipients are children under 18

18% of emergency food recipients are seniors age 50 and over

61% of food bank clients have incomes below the federal poverty level

The Alameda County Community Food Bank is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that has been serving the community since 1985. As the county's clearinghouse for donated food, the Food Bank provides food assistance for 40,000 low-income Alameda County

residents each week, which includes 14,000 children and 7,000 seniors. Most adults served are among the working poor.

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