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PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHARITABLE FOUNDATIONS COMMIT MORE THAN \$2.6 MILLION TO ST. MARY'S FOOD BANK ALLIANCE CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

Funds to support increased food distribution to community; expansion of after-school feeding programs and Community Kitchen training facility

Phoenix, Ariz. – Local charitable foundations, led by the Stardust Foundation, have pledged more than \$2.6 million to the St. Mary's Food Bank Alliance Capital Campaign, which was announced last month.

The Stardust Foundation has pledged \$1 million toward the Food Bank's \$10 million goal to pay for capital improvements that will allow the distribution of more food into the community, including dramatic expansion of an after-school feeding program and a culinary training course focused on life skills. More than \$7 million has been pledged in total to the campaign.

The campaign, titled *Ending Hunger, Changing Lives*, is also being supported by the Virginia G. Piper Charitable Trust with a \$750,000 pledge; the Nina Mason Pulliam Foundation and The Emerald Foundation, each with \$500,000 pledges; The Thunderbirds with a

\$250,000 pledge; Cardinals Charities and the Ferry Foundation, each with \$50,000 pledges; and the Del E. Webb Foundation with a \$25,000 pledge.

Food Bank President and CEO Terry Shannon said the commitments from the Valley's leading foundations shows broad-based community support for the future goals of St. Mary's Food Bank. "As we look to the future, the need to take a proactive stance against growing poverty and hunger in our state is imperative," Shannon said. "This is wonderful, because there is no better time for us than right now to raise our voices and gain the community's support for those who can't do it for themselves."

The St. Mary's Food Bank capital campaign effort is being led by co-chairs Kevin and Sydney Knight of Knight Transportation; David Rousseau of Salt River Project; Alicia Harrison of Wells Fargo; Dale Rich of Albertson's; Randi Freeman; Nancy Stone of ILX Resorts; Barry McBride of Sun Cornerstone Group and chairman of the Food Bank board; and Ayla Dickey of the University of Phoenix.

Funds raised from the capital campaign will focus equally on three main areas: expanding the production capacity of the organization's Kids Cafe® program to allow more children to be fed after school; streamlining the way Food Bank partner agencies select and pick up food at St. Mary's warehouses to accommodate more agencies; and relocating the kitchen and classroom space to increase student capacity of its Community Kitchen program.

More information about the *Ending Hunger, Changing Lives Capital Campaign* is available at www.firstfoodbank.org.

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ABOUT THE FOOD BANK: St. Mary's Food Bank Alliance, the world's first food bank, is a non-sectarian, nonprofit organization that alleviates hunger by efficiently gathering and distributing food to 534 agencies that serve the hungry. Serving 13 of Arizona's 15 counties, the organization is a member of Feeding America, the national network of food banks, and is committed to volunteerism, building community relationships, and improving the quality of life for Arizonans in need. The Food Bank is on track this fiscal year to distribute 60 million pounds of food to families and individuals, provide enough food for 300,000 meals every day, and garner more than 230,000

volunteer service hours. Web site: www.FirstFoodBank.org Phone: 602-242-FOOD.