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MEDIA ALERT/PHOTO OPPORTUNITY

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 4, 2008

HELP FIGHT HUNGER AT A TOTALLY AG-CITING EVENT!

*Maricopa County Fair, St. Mary's Food Bank Alliance, Girl and Boy Scouts
Encourage Fairgoers to Join the Fight Against Hunger*

WHO: The Maricopa County Fair, St. Mary's Food Bank Alliance, Girl and Boy Scouts

WHAT: Visitors to the Maricopa County Fair can help fight hunger in Arizona by donating non-perishable food items to St. Mary's Food Bank Alliance. Fifteen to 20,000 people are expected to attend the fair.

Learning that donations to the Food Bank have decreased, fair officials are encouraging attendees to join in the fight against hunger. Fairgoers will receive half off one adult admission or a free child's ticket by donating three cans of food. Food Bank staff and Girl and Boy Scouts will be collecting the donations.

The Food Bank will also present its Hunger 101 program, which advocates and empowers children and adults of all ages with information and knowledge to promote the elimination of poverty, food insecurity and hunger. With an emphasis on agriculture, children will learn about animals, farm life and safety through exhibits and hands-on, interactive displays.

WHEN: April 9 and 10. Gates open from 10am to 10pm.

WHERE: Arizona State Fairgrounds, 1826 W. McDowell Road, Phoenix 85007 (cross streets are 19th Avenue and McDowell Road)

WHY: As a nonprofit organization, the Maricopa County Fair strives to educate children and improve the community at the same time. By supporting the Food Bank, the fair is helping to promote the elimination of hunger in Arizona as food and gas prices have continued to increase and the neediest in Arizona are struggling to make ends meet.

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PHOTO/INTERVIEW OPPORTUNITIES: The Food Bank's President and CEO, Terry Shannon, is available for interviews. The Girl and Boy Scouts are available for photos each day, 4pm to 8pm.

ADDITIONAL FAIR DETAILS:

- Fair dates: April 9-13, 2008
- Admission: \$6 for adults, \$3 for children (6-12 yrs.). Children 5 and under are free.
- Gates open from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Wednesday, Thursday, & Sunday
- For more info, visit www.maricopacountyfair.org or call 602-252-0717

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For statistics on poverty and hunger, media inquiries, photos or interview requests, please contact Melody Hanna at (602) 343-3160, (602) 621-0526 or mlhanna@firstfoodbank.org.

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 675 sites that serve the hungry. Serving 13 of Arizona's 15 counties, the organization is committed to volunteerism, building community relationships, and improving the quality of life for Arizonans in need. During Fiscal Year 2006-2007, the Food Bank distributed 51.5 million pounds of food to families and individuals, provided enough food for 200,000 meals every day, and garnered more than 230,000 volunteer service hours. Web site: www.FirstFoodBank.org, Phone: 602-352-3640.