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## MEDIA ALERT

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 7, 2008

## LETTER CARRIERS FOOD DRIVE ADDRESSES FOOD BANK'S SUMMER NEEDS

**WHO:** St. Mary's Food Bank Alliance, the National Association of Letter Carriers and Valley of the Sun United Way

**WHAT:** 16<sup>th</sup> Annual National Association of Letter Carrier's Food Drive. First established in Phoenix, Arizona in 1990, the food drive went national in 1992 and is now considered the largest one-day food drive.

**WHEN:** Saturday, May 10, 2008

**WHY:** Knowing the summer season is especially difficult for food banks, the NALC Food Drive provides much needed nonperishable food items for St. Mary's Food Bank Alliance and food banks across the country. As the largest single-day food drive, letter carriers in more than 10,000 communities collect nonperishable food items to help the neediest in our country, including more than 857,000 Arizonans.

**HOW:** Participation is simple! City and rural letter carriers will deliver grocery bags to residents' mailboxes the week of May 5. On **Saturday, May 10**, residents are encouraged to place bags filled with nonperishable food items next to their mailboxes. Letter carriers will then pick the bags up and deliver them to local food banks, including St. Mary's Food Bank Alliance.

**ITEMS NEEDED MOST BY THE FOOD BANK:** canned fruit, pasta, 100 percent juice (in plastic bottles), peanut butter, canned meat, cereal, and rice.

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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](mailto:mlhanna@firstfoodbank.org).

**ABOUT ST. MARY'S FOOD BANK ALLIANCE:** 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](http://www.FirstFoodBank.org), Phone: 602-352-3640.

**ABOUT VALLEY OF THE SUN UNITED WAY:** Valley of the Sun United Way is focused on addressing the issues that matter most in our community. Partnering with businesses, organizations and individuals, Valley of the Sun United Way improves lives and delivers meaningful results throughout Maricopa County. To learn more about Valley of the Sun United Way, visit [vsuw.org](http://vsuw.org).