

Boy Scout Food Drive Goes Door to Door

By Jennifer Wake



Boy Scout Troop #249 of Moraga sorts food at last year's "Scouting for Food" drive

Photo provided

According to a local report on hunger prepared for the Contra Costa Food Bank, more and more retired or disabled people on fixed incomes are being forced to choose between food, rent, medical care, or prescription drugs. And families using emergency food programs in Contra Costa and Solano counties say the food they buy just doesn't last, with 41 percent of adults reporting they did not eat for a whole day because there wasn't enough money to buy food.

In the next two weeks, nearly 300 local Boy Scouts, Cub Scouts and adult leaders will provide Lamorinda residents with an

easy way to help.

As part of a national food drive coordinated by the Boy Scouts of America called "Scouting for Food," approximately 75 troops and packs will distribute door hangers to homes throughout Lafayette, Orinda and Moraga on Saturday, Nov. 10 to advise people of how and what to donate. The following Saturday, (Nov. 17) scouts will return to pick up donations.

"You'll see scouts in uniform peppering Lamorinda placing door hangers on each door," said Scouting for Food District Director Cory Reid, who has helped coordinate this event for

the past three years. "We will be blanketing the neighborhoods, and the following Saturday we'll come back in uniform collecting bags to bring to the drop site. Trucks will slowly follow the scouts as they run along streets picking up the food bags on people's doorsteps. Two semi trailers will be parked in the LDS church parking lot in Moraga to collect all the food."

The Scouts hope to collect 35,000 pounds of non-perishable and non-breakable food this year, which would be an increase of nearly 30 percent from the 25,000 pounds they collected last year. The food will go directly to the Contra Costa Food Bank, which distributes more than 660,000 pounds of emergency food to hundreds of local soup kitchens, food pantries and emergency shelters throughout Contra Costa and Solano counties.

"The primary issue is raising awareness," Reid said.

Anyone who would like to donate, but misses the pick up time or does not receive a door hanger, can drop food from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 17 at the LDS church (3776 Via Granada in Moraga).

Other Ways to Help

- The Saint Mary's College Student-Advisory Committee is sponsoring a canned food drive at all home events this fall season. With the donation of canned food, fans will receive raffle tickets and will be eligible to win prizes throughout the game.

- Through December 31, you can donate nonperishable food items (no glass containers please) in the bright red barrels at all Safeway stores during their Holiday Food Drives.

- Volunteers are needed at the Contra Costa Food Bank to sort food drive donations. Sorting hours in Contra Costa are Tuesday thru Thursday from noon to 8 p.m., and Saturdays by appointment. If you would like more information about volunteering, or would like to schedule a time, **please contact Sharon at 925-771-1306 or szpepigno@foodbankccs.org**.

What is your favorite charity? Let us know at info@lamorindaweekly.com



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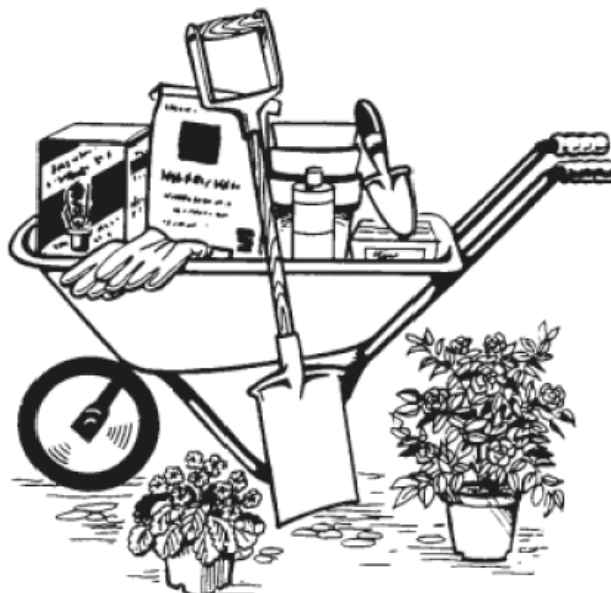
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