

SEATTLE FOOD BANKS IN NEED OF BABY FORMULA AND BABY FOOD – UNABLE TO MEET DEMAND

‘Christmas in August’ Food Drive To Help Raise Depleted Stocks

For Immediate Release

August 18, 2009, Seattle – With an increase in demand as high as 50 per cent in some communities, food banks across Seattle are desperate for donations, especially baby formula and baby food. *Solid Ground* is hoping a three-day initiative starting tomorrow, August 19th, by local junk removal company 1-800 RID-OF-IT will help the troubling situation.

Trish Twomey, Hunger Action Center Director for *Solid Ground*, says there is always an increased demand for food items in the summer because school is out and children no longer have access to breakfast or lunch programs. But this year the situation is far worse. Last year demand for food items was up by an average of 30 per cent. This year, it’s 35 per cent higher in many communities, and up to 50 per cent higher at programs like the St. Vincent de Paul Food Bank.

“More people are turning to food banks and less people are giving, which is a stark reflection of the times, something that we’re seeing is now putting Seattle’s most vulnerable – infants and young children - at risk,” said Twomey.

She added that baby formula is particularly expensive and, with the recession, not as many people are donating. Also, WIC, the federal program for Women Infants and Children, has had to cut back on the amount of formula they are giving away to certain low-income families.

1-800-RID-OF-IT, with a fleet of three trucks in Seattle, is offering to pick up non-perishable food donations from residences across Seattle and Mercer Island on August 19, August 20th and August 21st, free of charge. The company will deliver the food donations to various food banks in the Greater Seattle area.

Starting on the 19th, the trucks will be stationed at busy intersections blasting Christmas carols to raise awareness.

“We’re looking to inspire people with a summer sense of Christmas goodwill,” says Mike McKee, President of 1-800-RID-OF-IT. “It doesn’t take much to pick up the phone and call us to come and get those extra cans of tuna and hopefully jars of baby food.”

For a free pick-up on the 19th, 20th or 21st, the number to call is 1-800-743-6348.

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For more information, please contact:

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