

# Federal D. Glover

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FOR INFORMATION, CALL 925-778-0303

### **Feeding local families – A meaningful holiday gift**

MARTINEZ, SEPT. 22, 2009 -- “This could be the worst holiday season in recent memory for many poor working families,” said Captain Jackie Smith of the Salvation Army’s Antioch office.

The faith community is traditionally the first stop for families seeking assistance, but as the economic downturn continues the houses of worship in eastern Contra Costa County are their cupboards bare.

“The churches of East County have always been a place to find assistance,” said Smith, “but they rarely get adequate publicity and ample donations from the local community. Because of the longevity and depth of this recession, we are asking that the larger community help support this first line of food assistance.”

Contra Costa Supervisor Federal Glover sponsored a Board of Supervisors’ resolution today declaring October “Faith Feeding Families” month to bring attention to the critical role houses of worship play in providing local and immediate food assistance.

“The houses of worship are among the first institutions to feel the brunt of this recession,” said Glover. “It is an opportunity for local people to help the needy in their own communities by helping the people of faith.”

The Contra Costa-Solano Food Bank, a well-known food assistance agency for organizations, notes that more people are getting in line to supplement their food at numerous sites throughout Contra Costa County. Participation in the food assistance program increased 54% in the first half of this year according to Food Bank records. East County usage of this Food Bank jumped 80% during this same time frame.

Several organizations, including some involved with the county-initiated Child Welfare Redesign Group, are sponsoring events to bring attention this need. Churches, temple and synagogues need to restock their shelves so they can continue to offer food assistance.

- Delta 2000 at the Rivertown Resource Center invites the community to participate in the 22nd Annual East County Hunger Walk. This event will be held on Oct. 3, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Registration begins at 8 a.m. at the Antioch Historical Society.

100% of all pledges go directly to East County food programs. For information regarding resource booths or to request pledge forms call 925-779-1404.

- East County religious leaders are invited to attend the Pastors' Luncheon on Oct. 22 at Antioch's Prewett Family Water Park's Community Center to raise awareness in their places of worship about the food needs in East County. If interested, call 925-778-0303.
- A Food Resource Guide compiled by the Health Disparities Committee of the Child Welfare Redesign Committee in collaboration with the Contra Costa-Solano Food Bank will be released. The list of food pantries, soup kitchens and food sources has been broken down for each city in East County making it easier to locate the nearest food pantry. To request a copy of this guide, call 925-957-5421.